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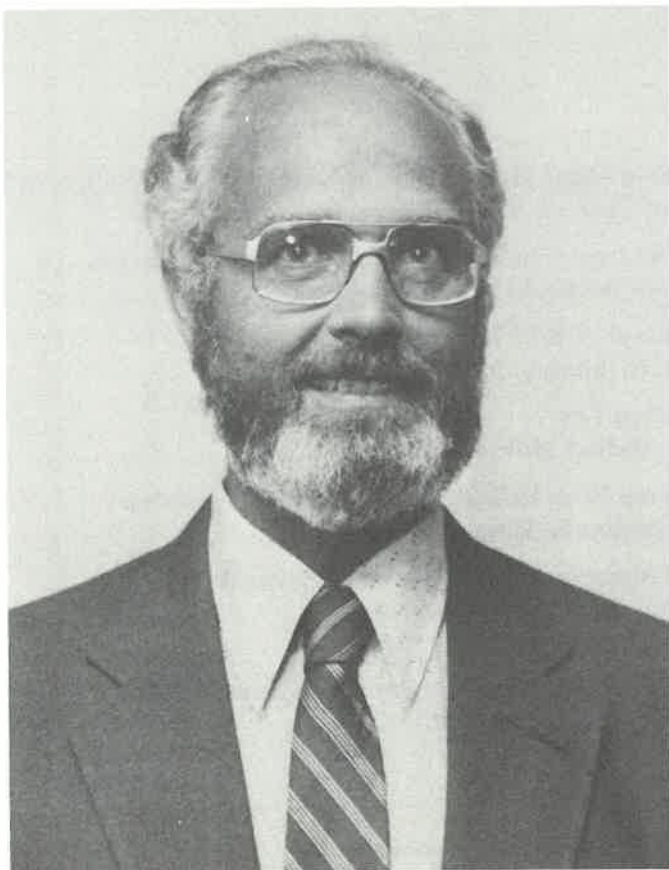
Front Cover: Old and New Courthouse
Back Cover: 19th Century portrait pitcher. Photo by Ross Stansfield

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Dedication

*This issue of the Yearbook is dedicated to the
memory of George Washington on the 250th
Anniversary of his birth.*



Lewis Leigh, Jr.

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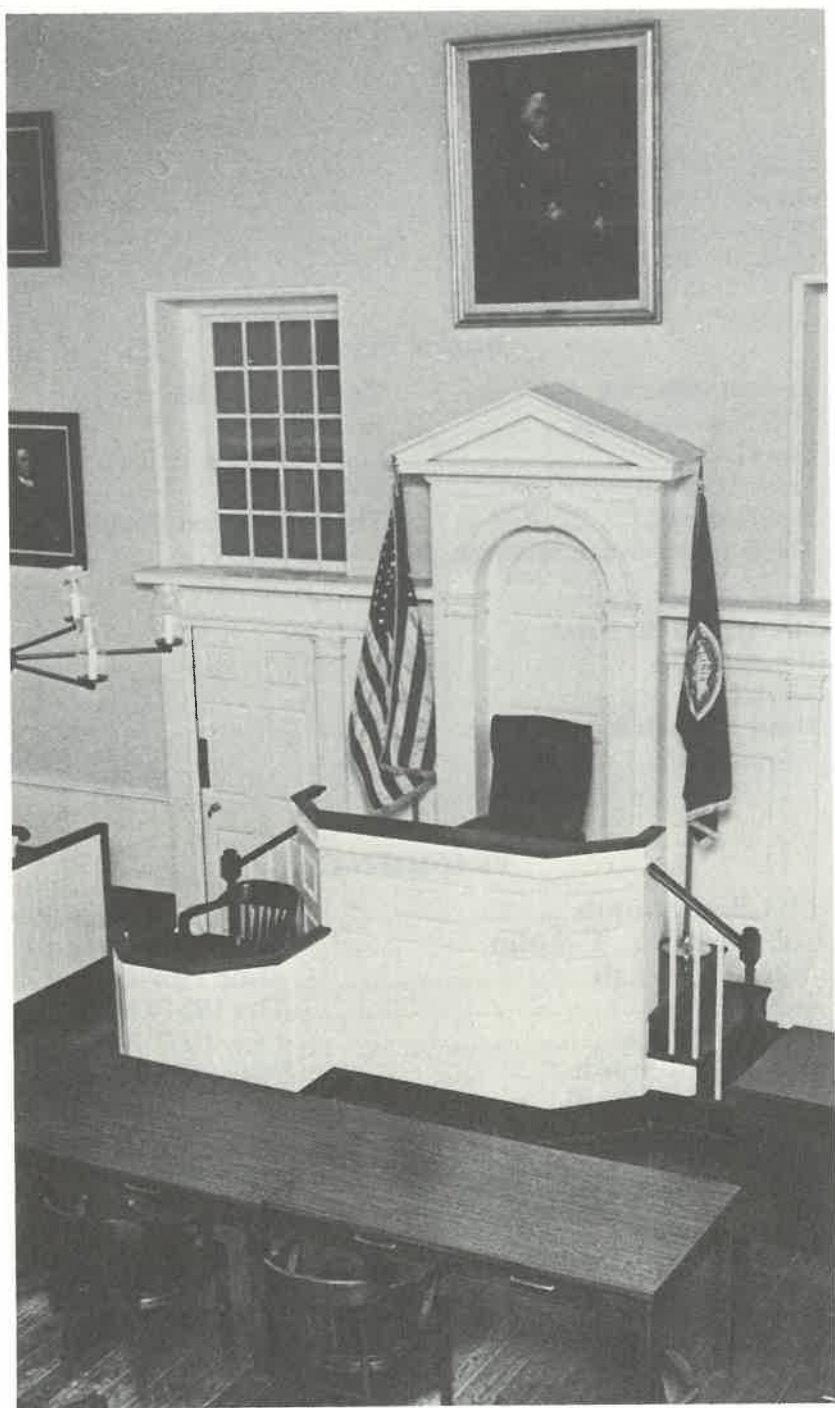
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Address of Judge Harry L. Carrico to the Historical Society of Fairfax County, June 19, 1982

I am deeply grateful for the honor of participating in this program marking the 240th anniversary of the founding of Fairfax County. Fairfax has played a most important part in making this country the great, free place we all enjoy. It is entirely appropriate, therefore, that you should commemorate the county's birth with these dignified exercises in this historic setting.

In debating with myself about what facet of Fairfax County's history to discuss today, my thoughts kept returning to the names of George Washington and George Mason. Although both were mere lads when Fairfax was founded, they, even more than the county's own namesake, gave it the identity that has long since been recorded in history.

While considering Washington and Mason, I thought to myself what a truly remarkable coincidence it was that two men of such stature should, at the same moment in history, live only a few miles apart, on the same river, in the same county, and that they should combine their outstanding talents in the same noble cause. And I convinced myself that this happy union of events must have resulted from something more than mere coincidence; a divine fate surely must have smiled kindly upon the American colonies' hopes for freedom.

I do not intend, however, to dwell upon Washington. He remains my constant hero, but needs not my praise; even a casual reader of history knows the indispensable role the master of Mount Vernon played in the founding of our nation. I shall concentrate, therefore, upon the sage of Gunston Hall. Far too few Americans realize the enormity of George Mason's contributions to the cause of freedom and the establishment of constitutional government in this country. Even fewer could tell where he lived in the period of his greatest achievement. Indeed, sad to say, George Mason is a near-forgotten man in history.

I do not plan, though, to make this a biographical sketch of Mason; time does not permit this coverage and, in any event, you are probably better informed than I on the details of his life story. Instead, I shall focus upon two major documents Mason authored at crucial points in our

evolution from thirteen British colonies to an independent nation and give you my perception of the significance of these writings. I refer to the Fairfax Resolves and the Virginia Declaration of Rights.

With the Resolves, Mason engraved the name of Fairfax County forever on the record of the American independence movement, and, with both documents, he put his personal stamp indelibly upon the course of history. Jefferson said of Mason that he was "of the first order of greatness." In full agreement, I submit that, in the Resolves and the Declaration, Mason's genius shines through with unquestionable clarity.

The Fairfax Resolves resulted from events that occurred far from the pastoral serenity of Gunston Hall. In a series of provocative actions, George III and the British Parliament stirred the wrath of even the most level-headed of the colonial patriots. Then, in December, 1773, a band of Bostonians masquerading as Indians boarded a British ship in Boston harbor and threw overboard 340 chests of tea belonging to the British East India Company. Parliament responded with enactment of the Boston Port Bill, which effectively closed Boston harbor to all trade.

The closing of the port brought swift and positive reaction up and down the Atlantic seaboard, evidenced both by the supplying of food and money to the beleaguered Bostonians and by the stiffening of resistance to British rule. In Virginia, freeholders gathered in county meetings and chose representatives to an August, 1774, convention in Williamsburg of the membership of the then-dissolved House of Burgesses.

On July 14, 1774, Fairfax freeholders and inhabitants, meeting at the county courthouse in Alexandria, chose George Washington and Charles Broadwater to represent the county at the Williamsburg convention. Following this election, the meeting was adjourned until July 18, at which time the assembly would consider instructions to its new delegates and measures designed to persuade the British to redress colonial grievances.

On July 17, Mason rode from Gunston Hall to Mount Vernon and spent the night there. Doubtless, he and Washington discussed the paper Mason intended to present to the freeholders the next day, and the paper as presented may have contained Washington's ideas. However, the document was written entirely in Mason's hand and bore his literary style.

Washington and Mason rode together into Alexandria the next day for the meeting of the Fairfax freeholders. With Washington presiding, the meeting adopted what Mason himself styled the "Fairfax County Resolves." The freeholders directed Washington and Broadwater to submit the resolutions to the Williamsburg convention in August "as the Sense of the People of this County, upon the Measures proper to be taken in the present alarming and dangerous Situation of America."

Washington conveyed the Fairfax Resolves to Williamsburg personally, and they were submitted, along with resolutions from other counties,

to the August convention. The Resolves formed the framework of the Virginia Association of 1774, adopted by the convention as an effort to halt exportation and importation to and from Great Britain.

Washington then took the Resolves with him to the meeting of the first Continental Congress in Philadelphia. In revised form, the resolutions appeared as the Continental Association, adopted by the Congress on October 20, 1774, a measure again directed toward the enforcement of nonimportation and nonexportation.

Notable by their verbosity, the Resolves consisted of 24 numbered paragraphs. The first contained a curious statement:

This Colony and Dominion of Virginia can not be considered as a conquered country; and if it was . . . the present Inhabitants are the Descendants not of the Conquered, but of the Conquerors.

The second resolution declared “the fundamental Principle of the People’s being governed by no Laws, to which they have not given their Consent, by Representatives freely chosen by themselves.” The third asserted the right of the colonies’ “own Provincial Assemblys or Parliaments,” rather than the British Parliament, to exercise legislative power. The sixth declared that the “Right of withholding, or of giving and granting their own Money is the only effectual Security to a free People.”

In the ninth resolution, the colonists boldly asserted that there was “a premeditated Design and System formed and pursued by the British Ministry . . . to reduce [the colonies] to a State of Desperation,” resulting “in the Ruin both of Great Britain and her colonies.” The twelfth maintained that “every Act of Violence or Oppression inflicted upon any one of [the colonies should be regarded] as aimed at all” and that there should be “a firm Union” of the colonies effected by the appointment of a congress “to concert a general and uniform Plan for the Defence and Preservation of [their] common Rights.”

The 15th and 21st resolutions dealt with the complex problem of nonimportation and nonexportation. The 17th deserves special note. It sought a suspension of slave importation “during [the] present Difficulties and Distress” and, indeed, “an entire Stop for ever . . . to such a wicked cruel and unnatural Trade.”

The 22nd resolution stated the determination to support the “Town of Boston” with “such Measures as shall be concerted by the General Congress, for the preservation of the [colonists’] Lives Liberties and Fortunes.” And the 23rd implored the British king “not to reduce his faithful Subjects of America to a State of desperation, and to reflect, that from [their] sovereign there can be but one Appeal.” Historians seem to agree that the “one appeal” language could have had no meaning other than

open rebellion, a remarkably courageous challenge by a group of Fairfax freeholders whose very "Lives Liberties and Fortunes" thus were subjected to forfeiture by a vengeful British king.

History records that George III did not heed the freeholders' plea; hence, the rebellion presaged by the Fairfax Resolves became inevitable. As one commentator has observed:

The combustible materials were collected that spring [of 1774] in Fairfax County, ready for that first spark struck on 19 April 1775 near Boston.

While the Fairfax Resolves cannot be characterized as a major literary contribution, there can be no doubt that the document represented a giant step in the colonists' onward march to independence. Furthermore, although the Resolves did not state the colonists' case in language quite as extreme as the words employed by Patrick Henry in St. John's Church, the resolutions did make the colonial patriots' position unmistakably clear; the eighth resolution stated:

It is our greatest Wish and Inclination . . . to continue our Connection with . . . the British Government; but tho' we are its Subjects, we will use every Means which Heaven hath given us to prevent our becoming its Slaves.

Mason's authorship of the Virginia Declaration of Rights had an even more momentous effect upon the cause of liberty, but his contribution in this regard has been inadequately credited. As one observer has noted:

Few documents have ever had such a wide impact on society and yet brought so little public recognition for the principal author as the Virginia Declaration of Rights.

The Declaration really had its genesis in the Continental Congress. Meeting in Philadelphia, the Congress, early in May, 1776, advised each colony to assume sovereign powers, adopting new forms of government, where necessary, "sufficient to the exigencies of their affairs." Reacting with amazing speed, the Virginia Convention met in Williamsburg on May 15 in place of the dissolved House of Burgesses and appointed a committee to draft a bill of rights and a constitution for Virginia.

Fairfax County freeholders had elected George Mason as their representative to the Virginia Convention. Arriving in Williamsburg on May 18, just recovered from a "smart fit of the Gout," Mason was appointed to the drafting committee. He complained that the committee was, "according to custom, overcharged with useless Members."

Mason feared the committee's work would be hampered and delayed by, as he put the problem, a "thousand ridiculous and impracticable proposals." Happily, he was proved wrong. Taking the lead in the committee's endeavors, Mason produced a draft for the committee, probably as early as May 24. After some revision by the committee, the draft was sent to the convention on May 27 and scheduled for debate on May 29. With minor changes, the declaration was adopted without dissent by the convention on June 12. Thus, in less than a month, one of the major documents in world history had been proposed, prepared, and adopted unanimously by a body composed of some of the most independent thinkers of the time.

The Declaration represents a comprehensive exposition of the natural rights of mankind. From the opening statement that "all men are by nature equally free and independent" to the closing assurance that "all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion," the Declaration enunciated the full panoply of rights we have come to regard as commonplace. Interspersed were provisions dealing with the establishment and alteration of governments, the nature of public service, the separation of the powers of government, and the role of the military in a free society.

One paragraph of the Declaration will serve to display the notability of the entire writing, not only as a legal document but also as a literary work. The 15th paragraph states that:

[N]o free Government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue, and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.

Soon after he completed the Declaration or, perhaps, even while he was working on it, Mason also drafted a constitution for Virginia, probably completing the task by June 10, 1776. On June 24, printed copies of the draft were distributed to the members of the Virginia convention and, after some revision, a final version was adopted on June 29. In adopting these two documents, the Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Constitution of 1776, the Virginia colony made its independence complete.

Virginia had also set the pattern for things to come. In less than a month after its adoption in Williamsburg, the Declaration would find itself in Thomas Jefferson's hands in Philadelphia. He would write in the Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

The words may have been different, but the idea and the ideal were the same that Mason had enunciated in his Declaration of Rights and, indeed, in his Fairfax Resolves.

In August, 1776, Pennsylvania adopted a constitution that contained a declaration of rights that, according to John Adams, "was taken almost verbatim from that of Virginia." Then, in turn, ten of the remaining states adopted constitutions either containing separate bills of rights, or incorporating rights statements, all following Mason's model in his Virginia Declaration.

It was upon the federal constitution, however, that the Virginia Declaration would have its most profound effect. As you know, and to Mason's great dismay, the Constitutional Convention of 1787 did not include a bill of rights in the constitution it proposed for ratification by the states. Because the Constitution lacked a bill of rights and also, in Mason's view, failed to protect properly the power to regulate commerce, he refused to sign the document at the convention and opposed its ratification by Virginia.

In the state conventions called to consider ratification of the Constitution, strong sentiments were expressed for the addition of a bill of rights. A number of states, including Virginia, adopted specific recommendations for amendments closely paralleling the rights enunciated in Mason's declaration. Then, at its first meeting in 1789, the United States Congress adopted ten amendments for ratification by the states. When Virginia ratified the amendments on December 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights finally became part of the United States Constitution.

One need only compare the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Constitution's first ten amendments to discern the effect of the one upon the other. Taken from the Declaration are the First Amendment rights of freedom of the press and free exercise of religion, the Second Amendment right to bear arms, the Fourth Amendment proscription against unreasonable searches and seizures, the Fifth Amendment rights of freedom from self-incrimination and of due process of law, the Sixth Amendment rights of speedy trial by an impartial jury, of confrontation of witnesses, and of compulsory process, the Seventh Amendment right of jury trial in civil cases, and the Eighth Amendment prohibitions against excessive bail and cruel and unusual punishment.

Furthermore, I think it can be fairly stated that George Mason's stubborn insistence upon the inclusion of a bill of rights in the Constitution was the most important single factor in the ultimate adoption of the first ten constitutional amendments. His adamant opposition to the Constitution without a bill of rights brought him severe criticism and even cost him election as a Fairfax County delegate to the Virginia Convention, called to ratify the Constitution; it is almost unbelievable that he

had to go to the Convention as a delegate, not from Fairfax, but from Stafford. However, the sincerity of his views and the persistence of his labors overcame all opposition and resulted in the eventual exoneration of his position, to the great benefit of his countrymen and posterity.

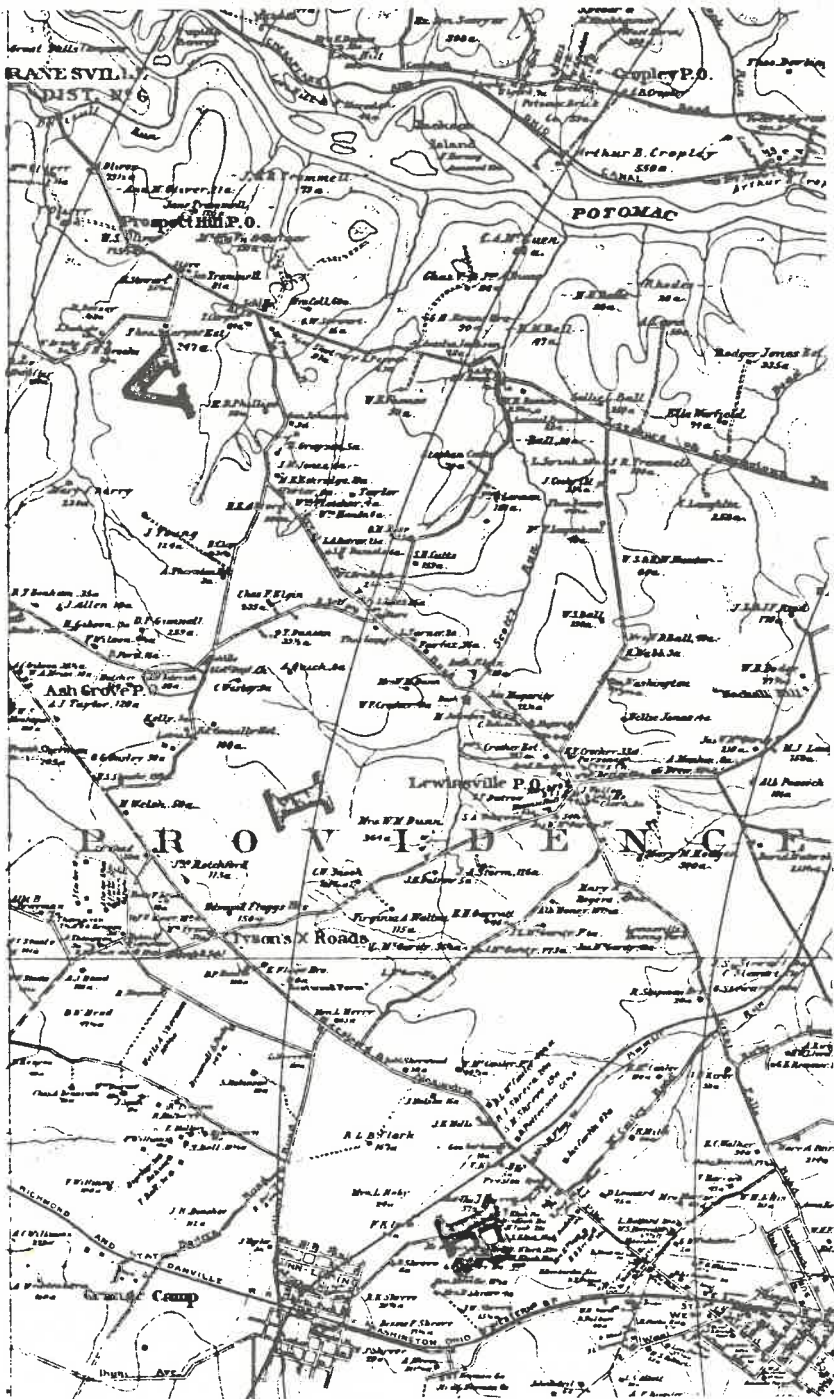
The influence of the Virginia Declaration of Rights did not end, however, with the American Constitution. In 1789, the same year that the United States Congress adopted our first ten amendments, the French Constituent Assembly considered a declaration of rights proposed, quite appropriately, by the Marquis de Lafayette. On August 27, 1789, the Assembly adopted the proposed declaration, and it was accepted the following November by Louis XVI.

An examination of the French declaration demonstrates the strong influence of its Virginia counterpart. Indeed, the similarity between the principles stated in the two documents is striking. A leading French statesman of the time wrote:

The first declaration of rights that is entitled to be called such is that of Virginia [and] its author is entitled to the eternal gratitude of mankind.

We can do no less today than give George Mason our complete gratitude. Through his dynamic pen and his tireless efforts, he helped gain and insure those blessings of liberty we now enjoy in greater measure than any people in history. With his Fairfax Resolves, he brought immortality to the name of the county we in this room are privileged to call "home." In his Declaration of Rights, he made certain of our "frequent recurrence to fundamental principles." As we look in retrospect upon what he contributed to the cause of independence from his base in Fairfax County, we can express grateful acknowledgement in words Mason himself used in another context:

"[W]e seem to have been treading upon enchanted ground."



Black Settlement in Forestville, Vienna and Lewinsville After the Civil War

by
Mark Brzezinski
Andrew Ting
Students at Langley High School

"I have a dream . . . It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream . . . I have a dream that one day in the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

*Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Address delivered at
Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.
August 28, 1963*

Preface

*This research paper is an exploration of black settlements after the Civil War in Forestville, Lewinsville, and Vienna, three areas of Fairfax County. In writing this paper, the authors had to incorporate much historical information from personal interviews, which were emphasized during research, due to lack of documentation on the subject. These interviews were conducted with local historians and also related descendants of some inhabitants of these settlements. It is acknowledged that oral interviews may reflect upon information that has undergone alterations of varying degrees, through the passage of time or the influence of other factors. The authors have attempted to represent the history of black settlement in these areas as accurately as possible. This paper will hopefully reveal some insight into the establishment and growth of these settlements. The treatment of this subject is far from being an exhaustive work on a very interesting subject and deserves more attention because of its social and historical significance.

*First prize winner, Fairfax County Historical Society Annual Essay Contest, 1982

Introduction

On January 1st, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation declared all men in slavery free of physical bondage, but delivered these “freedmen” into an economic and social bondage that was equally oppressive. After the Civil War, the freedmen were faced with an uncertain future. They had the choice between remaining with their masters or leaving to begin a new life.¹ Those freedmen who chose to remain where they were usually entered into contracts with white land owners whereby they worked the farmer’s land and in turn paid the farmer a portion of their crop at years end. This arrangement came to be known as the share-cropping system.² Many freedmen understandably remained with their masters after the war because after years of slavery they were afraid of venturing out alone. However, a large number of freedmen were bold and eager enough to take advantage of their recently acquired freedom by leaving their places of bondage.³ The eagerness that the freedmen exhibited when they ventured into unfamiliar areas to settle and start a new life expressed the essence of the “American Dream.” In Virginia many of the freedmen were a part of a migration away from Virginia that resulted in a 3½% decrease in the population of the State, as seen in the United States Census of 1870.⁴ Furthermore, the Census also revealed that by 1870, 173,754 negroes, born in Virginia, lived in twenty selected States including Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Georgia. The movement away from Virginia was caused by an “economic stress” resulting from the struggle for existence in an area of high population and land depleted by the war. Coupled with the refusal of white landowners to sell land to the freed blacks, the labor force of Virginia began to be drained by the migration of the blacks.⁵ As a result of this migration land prices in Virginia began to plummet as farmers were forced to sell parts of their estates, which had grown unmanageable in size.⁶ Land selling for \$10 an acre before the war was now going on sale at court decreed prices of \$1 to \$3 an acre.⁷ The migration lessened as white landowners, realizing the detrimental effects of this exodus of negroes on their economy, began to sell their land to the freedmen.

Initially, many of the freedmen were under the impression that they were going to receive land from the federal government that had been confiscated from the estates of their former masters. However, as time passed it became quite obvious that no such transfer of land was about to occur.⁸ Most of the freedmen who left their former masters after the war stayed in freedmen’s camps, run by Union soldiers, where they were provided with shelter and food. They were forced, however, to leave after a while.⁹ Many built huts that served as temporary shelters.¹⁰ Eventually, with thrift and savings many were able to purchase tiny frame houses in Virginia, typically a story and a half high with fireplaces.¹¹

During the war many Northern soldiers passing through Northern Virginia were attracted to the area and thus returned to live in this area after the war.¹² There was also an influx of other Northerners from 1860-1870 especially in Fairfax County, Virginia. This influx greatly tempered the attitudes of the people of this area. This was evinced by the surprising cooperation of white landowners in selling land to the freedmen in Fairfax County after the war. The generally tolerant attitudes of the landowners toward freedmen in Fairfax County was illustrated in a letter from Freedmen's Bureau agent Edward Shield to his commanding officer stating that, "No cases of injustice towards freedmen (in Fairfax County) have come to my knowledge during the month of June, 1868." This statement reflects the lack of active ambivalence that the black settlements in Fairfax County experienced.¹³ In addition, the establishment of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands under the leadership of Major O. E. Hine in Fairfax County greatly alleviated the problems encountered by the freedmen in this area.¹⁴ The work of the Freedmen's Bureau in Fairfax County may be classified under four categories:

- (1) Benevolent. The Freedmen's Bureau established a paternal supervision of the colored race.¹⁵
- (2) Protective. The freedmen were protected from prejudiced aggressions from whites.¹⁶
- (3) Educational. The Freedmens Bureau was vital in the establishment of fourteen colored schools in Fairfax County which were described as "flourishing" by the Freedmen's Bureau Agent, Edward Shield.¹⁸
- (4) Political. The Freedmen's Bureau possessed great influence over their awards.¹⁹

Due to the factors of the tempered attitude of the residents and other factors that eased the settlement of the freedmen, black settlement in Fairfax County experienced less opposition and more encouragement than many other areas in the South.

Land ownership was the most tangible assurance of freedom to the freedmen after the war.²⁰ Settlements sprang up where favorable conditions existed such as the very important black-white land owner relationship. Not all blacks after the Civil War lived in settlements but in Fairfax County there was a tendency for the blacks to live together as they were often not welcomed in areas where the whites resided.

The key factor in the success of the settlements of Forestville, Vienna, and Lewinsville in Fairfax County was the degree of tolerance of the white residents of Fairfax County. For example, some of the black settlement in Forestville was deeded land by rich land owners, the Gunnells.²¹ The black settlement in Vienna acquired its land from Captain Harmon

L. Salsbury, a Union captain from New York who commanded the 26th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry. Also Major Orrin E. Hine, a Civil War veteran, who became the Assistant Superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau of Fairfax County, granted land to freedmen in Vienna. Lewinsville had two distinct settlements, the Sharper settlement and the Odrick's Corner settlement. Both these settlements were established on land acquired from the prominent white landowners, Samuel Smith and Gen. J. S. Crocker respectively.²³ The sale of land by these landowners was prompted by humanitarian impulses more than through a desire to exploit the blacks. Economics must surely have been involved to some extent, but the conditions of sale, which were often generous, indicate that avarice was clearly not a major factor in the land sales. The settlement of blacks after the Civil War in the areas of Forestville, Vienna, and Lewinsville was facilitated by the toleration and cooperation of prominent white landowners through their extensive sale of land to the blacks.

Forestville

Forestville was the smallest black settlement examined. It was little more than a small village at what is now the cross-roads between Georgetown Pike and Walker Road.²⁴ In a series of articles in the *Washington Star* by a roving journalist who went by the name of the Rambler, [Harry J. Shannon, Ed.], Forestville was described as a small village at a cross-roads very fitting of its name because of the verdure of the area.²⁵ The name Forestville was changed to Great Falls in November 1955 when the Fire Department adopted the name and urged other organizations to follow suit.²⁶

Very little is known about the settlement of blacks after the Civil War in this area. One of the earliest black families to settle in this area seems to have been the Piper family.²⁷ Two members of this family were buried in the Salem Cemetery, a white cemetery off Georgetown Pike. One of the two is Elizabeth Piper who was born in 1858 and died on 5 February 1885 at the age of 26 years and 10 months.²⁸ The other Piper buried in this cemetery is a child, James Piper, whose dates are unknown.²⁹ Later records indicate that on 27 May 1898 George W. Gunnell, Alice E. Gunnell, and John R. Gunnell sold William Harrison Piper a parcel of land "adjoining the lands of Cornwell and M. E. Church South" for the sum of twenty five dollars.³⁰ Another deed dated 12 December 1908 documented that Charles E. Piper and Margaret Piper sold a parcel of land to W. F. Shepperd and Almacia Shepperd for the sum of \$1800.³¹ The exact relationship between Elizabeth, James, William, Margaret, and Charles E. Piper could not be determined, but all of them may have been related

[illegible]

The extent of the Forestville settlement could not be determined right after the Civil War as the Census of 1870 included the residents of Forestville with the residents of Langley.³⁹ However, the voter's registration of Fairfax County in 1902 revealed that at least seven black residents and their families, if they had any, lived in Forestville. Six of the seven men had listed as their occupations laborer. The other was a school teacher.⁴⁰

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On 5 June 1891, Solomon and Ellen S. Ormsbee sold a parcel of land "near Spring Vale" to Jesse Lucas, Jr., one of the residents listed in the voting register of 1902, for the sum of "One dollar."⁴² Although the condition of the land is not described in the deed, it is quite obvious that economic motivation was not a primary factor in this sale.

Another resident of Forestville by the name of William Henry Coates, son of Henry S. Coates, was the first black businessman in the area.⁴³ William H. Coates with the help of Ralph Turner ran a garage, which also served as the inspection center for car repairs in this area. One longtime resident recalled the W. H. Coates was the man "who was mechanically gifted and repaired everything from cars to plumbing."⁴⁴ This garage was established around the turn of the century and closed with the advent of World War II.⁴⁵ No trace of Coates could be found in the deed books, census, wills or registration of voters, but it is evident from the authors' interviews that William Henry Coates was an important part of the Forestville community.

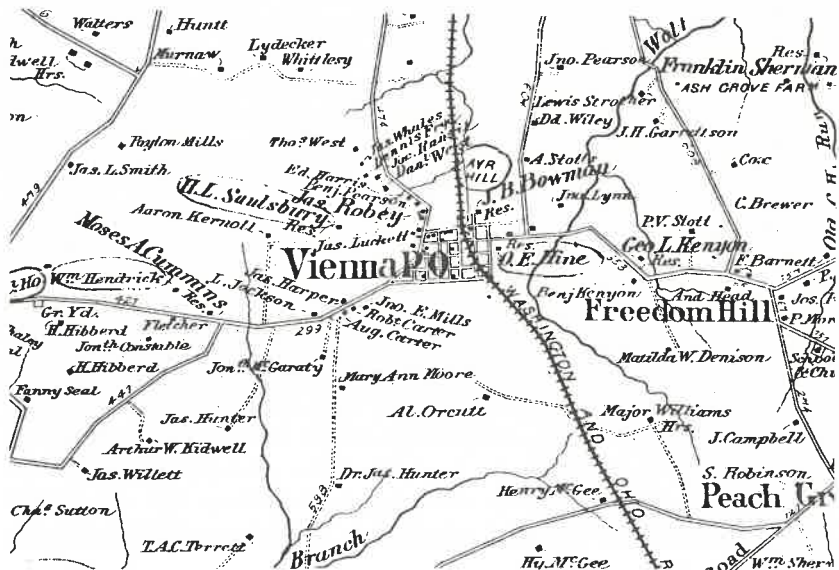
One of the churches in this area was the Salem Methodist Church. However, very few blacks attended this church. A resident of Forestville remembers that the church had "two doors in the front where women entered on the left and men entered on the right." The black members had to sit "upstairs in a gallery."⁴⁶ The church no longer exists but Salem Cemetery still remains. Forestville United Methodist Church now stands next to the ground where Salem Methodist Church once stood.⁴⁷ A longtime resident of Forestville remembered seeing the "remains of what he was told was a colored church."⁴⁸ No further trace of this church could be found in any records.

Although the black settlement in Forestville after the Civil War was limited in size, the white landowners of this area such as Richard Henry Gunnell and William S. Means contributed towards the development of the small black community in this area.

Vienna

The settlement of freedmen in the western and northern sections of the town of Vienna, Virginia, epitomized the fundamental role that wealthy, liberal Northerners played in black settlement in Fairfax County. Two individuals, U.S. Army Major Orrin Eugene Hine and U.S. Army Captain Harmon L. Salsbury, were very instrumental in the settlement of freedmen in Vienna between 1867-1900.⁴⁹ After the Civil War, many Northerners came to Fairfax County due to the cheap price of land, the proximity of Washington, D.C., and the milder climate of Fairfax County. A small colony of these Northerners settled in and around the community of Vienna.⁵⁰ These Northerners, instigated by monetary as

well as humanitarian incentives, increased the opportunities for the freedman to obtain land and were instrumental in the smooth settlement of blacks in Vienna. This migration of liberal-minded Northerners tempered the existing conservative views on racial equality of many of the native settlers in Vienna and made Vienna a very hospitable area for black settlement.⁵¹ Freedmen who settled in Vienna had a wide range of economic opportunities available to them probably due to the humanitarian principles⁵² of the prominent Northern landowners now living in the area and due to the fact that a factory, the Moses Cummins plow factory, which operated until the late 1870's, generously paid its employees one dollar a day.⁵³ In addition to this plow factory, there was also a tomato canning factory and a lime kiln, where oyster shells were processed for farm use.⁵⁴ Despite the presence of these factories in Vienna, the most common occupation of freedmen was that of a farm laborer.⁵⁵ Furthermore, relations between blacks and whites in Vienna after the Civil War were generally very good.⁵⁶ By 1870, 200 blacks had settled in the Vienna community.⁵⁷



Salsbury moved from Orleans County, New York, to Vienna, Virginia, and purchased quite a large tract of land worth \$10,000 in 1870.⁶⁰ Captain Salsbury professed liberal views on many of the customs of this conservative time period and believed in non-segregation. Captain Salsbury bought the large tract of land mentioned above, built a large barn, and became a successful dairy farmer.⁶¹ One contemporary historian, Andrew Wolf, observed that the 1870 census showed a large cluster of black families in the immediate area of the Salsbury home. Wolf reasoned that Salsbury set aside a large portion of his land to be made accessible to the freedmen of the area.⁶² This area was subdivided into plots of land by Salsbury for the black settlers. This subdivision was known as Windover Heights.⁶³ Captain Salsbury made it easy for the freedman to buy property from him, asking only for a small down payment and sometimes giving them twenty years to pay the balance.⁶⁴ William West, a negro born in Vienna in 1873,⁶⁵ stated that when he bought one acre from Captain Salsbury, he was charged \$100 but was given 10 years to pay the money, with only minimal interest payment.⁶⁶ These easy terms showed the kindness Salsbury extended to all freedmen who wanted to buy land. Not only did Captain Salsbury exhibit his kindness through his easy terms of land purchase to blacks, but also his humanitarianism was reflected in the extensiveness of his land sales. Between 1869 and 1915, Captain Salsbury sold over 100 plots of land in Vienna.⁶⁷ Furthermore, the Salsbury family's interest in the black community was exemplified by the fact that Mrs. Salsbury is said to have been one of the teachers at the black school established in 1867 on Lawyers Road.⁶⁸

Secondly, Major Orrin Eugene Hine, like Captain Salsbury, had passed through Fairfax County during the Civil War and, having been attracted by Vienna's natural beauty and its close proximity to the nation's capital, had returned after leaving the armed forces.⁶⁹ Major Hine moved to Vienna in 1866 and bought a large tract of land. Tax records show that, by 1885, Hine owned 6,440 acres of land.⁷⁰ O. E. Hine is credited with having a willingness to deed land to freedmen in Vienna, for between 1867 and 1900, Hine granted over 60 plots of land.⁷¹ The fundamental difference between Orrin E. Hine and Harmon L. Salsbury was the Hine did not cater to blacks who were seeking land as did Captain Salsbury. This means that Hine's terms in the purchase of land were probably not as easy as Salsbury's, but this did not prevent the blacks from buying land from Hine.⁷² In regard to employment, Hine probably employed more blacks on his extensive farm than any other farmer in Vienna.⁷³ Therefore, many of the black settlers in Vienna were probably dependent on employment on his farm. Hine was appointed Assistant Superintendent of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands shortly before Lincoln's assassination. As director of the Freedmen's

Bureau in Fairfax County, he did much to alleviate the burdens placed on the freedmen.⁷⁴ For example, a letter from Orrin E. Hine to a resident of Fairfax County, Hugh Adams, shows the desire of Orrin E. Hine to aid freedmen being treated unfairly. The letter states that Mr. Hugh Adams must cease threatening a black man, John Sogon, with physical harm for killing Adams' dog. Hine states that "the day has passed by when negroes can be assaulted and threatened with impunity."⁷⁵

In Fairfax County, Hine established 14 black schools, one of them in Vienna,⁷⁶ now known as the Louise Archer School. In 1867, Orrin E. Hine, after overhearing some of his field hands discussing their desire to organize a church, deeded a small plot of land, for the very generous price of one dollar, on Lawyer's Road to the "Trustees of the Colored School of Vienna."⁷⁷ The deed stated that on this land was to be constructed a church, and one of the provisions of the deed was that the church must also be used as a school since there was no school for black children in the area.⁷⁸ Furthermore, the deed granting the land to the trustees of the school states that "whenever (the structure) shall cease to be so occupied (as a church or school) for the space of 1 year . . . it shall revert to the said O. E. Hine and this instrument shall be null and void."⁷⁹ This statement proves that Hine deeded land for the good of the black people in Vienna, for the deed states that the structure could not be used for private interests.

As director of the Freedmen's Bureau of Fairfax County, Hine secured permission for the blacks to use the lumber in the numerous abandoned ammunition shelters left in the area for the construction of the church and school.⁸⁰ Not only was this structure the first church in Vienna, but also this school, known as "Vienna Public School A," is believed to be the first black elementary school in Fairfax County.⁸¹ Orrin E. Hine also is credited with straightening and widening the town's streets and lining them with six miles of maple trees.⁸² Thus, not only did O. E. Hine give a great effort for the improvement of lives of the freedmen in Vienna, but he also was thoroughly involved in making Vienna the beautiful city it is today. Likewise, Hine is credited for deeding land for the establishment of churches in the area. Religion was very important to the freedmen, and the church was the focal point of the black community.⁸³ The trustees of one Vienna church, the Vienna Methodist Church, established in 1890, bought land in Vienna from O. E. Hine for the generous price of only one dollar. The deed states that if the trustees failed "to erect a church (on this lot) within 2 years from date, or at any time thereafter, shall cease for two years to occupy the said lot as a church site then it shall revert to the party of the first part." Thus, Hine generously deeded a lot in Vienna so that the Methodists in Vienna could establish a church. However, in order that the lot be prohibited from being used as a

place of private interest, the deed states that Hine would confiscate the land if the lot did not become a church site.⁸⁴

The combination of Salsbury's open-mindedness and Hine's record as a civic leader and employer, made Vienna a thoroughly hospitable place for freedmen to settle after the Civil War. The fair treatment and the opportunities for advancement that Hine and Salsbury gave the freedmen made both men's presence very beneficial to the black settlements in the growing town of Vienna.⁸⁵

Lewinsville

There were two black settlements in the area of Lewinsville.⁸⁶ One of these settlements was established at the intersection of the Leesburg and Alexandria Pike and what is now Lewinsville Road. This community was known as Odrick's Corner.⁸⁷ The other black settlement had no specific name. The authors have labeled this settlement which was located on what is Belleview Road today, the Sharper settlement, because the Sharper family, a black family, was the first to settle there.⁸⁸ Previous documentations on Lewinsville inaccurately placed these two settlements approximately a mile apart.⁸⁹ In truth, the distance between the Sharper settlement and the Odrick's Corner settlement was slightly over one and a half miles.⁹⁰ The fallacy probably arose through the assumption that the distances between the settlements could be represented by the distance between two churches of these settlements, for the distance between their churches was roughly one mile.⁹¹

Sharper Settlement

The older settlement, the Sharper settlement, was founded by Daniel Sharper in 1825, when he was deeded 34 acres of land by Samuel Smith,⁹² a white landowner in the area. According to a descendent of the Sharpers, Samuel Smith had no qualms about selling land to blacks. Sharper, receiving permission to hire himself out, saved enough money to purchase his freedom from Robert Lindsay, some time before the year 1800.⁹³ Coming from the James River area, Daniel, now a freedman, married Molly Sharper and settled down in 1825 on the 34 acres to raise his family.⁹⁴ In an article by "The Rambler," the descendents of Daniel Sharper described Daniel as a "famous carpenter . . . who always wore a coonskin cap and carried a gun wherever he went."⁹⁵ It is important to note that all of Daniel and Molly's children were born free.⁹⁶ Mary Courtney Sharper, the child of Daniel and Molly Sharper, was the mother of Daniel Sharper and Samuel Lott Sharper (born Nov. 11, 1882).⁹⁷ Thus, S. L. Sharper was the grandson of Daniel Sharper and not the son as previously reported.⁹⁸ Samuel L. Sharper married Anne Maria Carter on March 2, 1854. Eleven children were born from this marriage. Included

was purchased from William S. Means on 8th November 1893, "in consideration of the sum of One Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$140.00)."¹⁰⁹ Among the founders of this church were three Sharpers, William S. Sharper, Samuel Sharper, and L. M. Sharper.¹¹⁰ Albert Henderson of the Henderson family was also one of the listed founders.¹¹¹ Due to the fact that the Sharpers played such a major role in the founding of this church, Pleasant Grove Methodist Church also came to be known as Sharpers' Church.¹¹² Today the church still stands on the Lewinsville Road, but is in a sad state of disrepair.¹¹³

The Sharper settlement began to dwindle in size after the turn of the century because the Sharper children were leaving as they grew older.¹¹⁴ This could be seen in the voting registration of 1902, in which four of the Sharpers indicated that they lived in Odrick's Corner.¹¹⁵ Today Mrs. Costley is the only Sharper living in the area where the Sharper settlement used to be.¹¹⁶ There are no remaining structures of the Sharper settlement.¹¹⁷ The area of the settlement along Belleview Road today still remains a heavily wooded area, with cleared ground which used to be farmed.¹¹⁸

Odrick's Corner

Odrick's Corner, the later settlement established after the Civil War, was the second black settlement in the Lewinsville area.¹¹⁹ It was another successful and self-sufficient black settlement in Fairfax County.¹²⁰ This settlement was founded by Alfred E. Odrick, a skilled carpenter, who gained his freedom on the day of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 from the Coleman family.¹²¹ In 1872, Alfred Odrick bought thirty acres of land near the junction of Leesburg and Alexandria Pike (Rt. 7) and what is Lewinsville Road today.¹²² A longtime resident of Fairfax County remembers that the Odrick house must have been one of the "largest houses in the area," judging from the frame of the house, the only thing left standing, when the resident was a child.¹²³ Alfred Odrick bought this land, stated on the deed as thirty acres, from the Gunnell family for the sum of \$450.¹²⁴

The principal white landowner in this area was Gen. John S. Crocker.¹²⁵ Between 1866 and 1908, Gen. J. S. Crocker sold over 60 parcels of land, as indicated by the Grantor Index in Fairfax County.¹²⁶ Among the many grants Gen. J. S. Crocker made was the sale of land to Robert Gunnell (black), George Pinnells and Sandy Parker, who were the trustees of the 1st Methodist Church (colored) of Falls Church, Fairfax County, Virginia, on 1 July 1868, for the sum of \$125.¹²⁷ The Last Will and Testament of Gen. J. S. Crocker indicated that the executrix of his estate was to be his wife, Harriet Crocker, as of 24 April, 1883.¹²⁸ After Gen. J. S. Crocker's death, Harriet, his wife, continued to grant land to the residents of the area.¹²⁹ Although economic motivation was doubtlessly a

concern in the transaction of land from white landowners to blacks, this and other similar transactions between Gen. J. S. Crocker and the blacks of this area evinced Gen. J. S. Crocker's intentions of aiding the blacks in settlement.¹³⁰

The Odrick's Corner settlement was considerably larger than the settlement of the Sharper family. The census of 1880 indicated that quite a few black families lived near Alfred Odrick.¹³¹ Among the black families that resided in Odrick's Corner were the Wesley, Turner, Daide and Jones families.¹³²

The community at Odrick's Corners was dedicated to the cause of educating their young. Shortly after Alfred Odrick had settled down, he constructed the Odrick Public School on his own estate.¹³³ A student at this school and a longtime resident of Fairfax County, Mrs. Costley, recalled that Odrick's Public School was "a single roomed wooden building with a long pot-bellied stove in the center, that belched more smoke than heated the room."¹³⁴ The students had to vacate the school more than once because of the smoke.¹³⁵

Odrick's Public School served the dual purpose of school and church for the residents of Odrick's Corner. The Odrick's Public School served as the church in this community until the Shiloh Baptist Church was built on land that Alfred Odrick donated. From then on, the Shiloh Baptist Church was the church that the black residents of Odrick's Corner attended.¹³⁷

The black settlement at Odrick's Corner, like many other black settlements in Fairfax County, was essentially self-sufficient.¹³⁸ The voters registration of 1902 indicated that the black residents who lived around this area were primarily listed as laborers or farmers.¹³⁹

The settlement of blacks in the area of Odrick's Corner, after the Civil War, was aided by land grants by the prominent white landowners, the Gunnells and the Crockers.¹⁴⁰ Although economic motivation was certainly a factor, it was probably only one of the concerns in the transfer of land from prominent white landowners to blacks after the Civil War. The settlement of blacks in the Odrick's Corner area was greatly facilitated by the economic and humanitarian concerns of the landowners of this area.¹⁴¹

Conclusion

The settlement of blacks in Fairfax County after the Civil War occurred rapidly due to a number of varying factors. Most importantly, the migration of the Northerners into Fairfax County was crucial in the settlement of blacks because this influx "tempered" the conservative racial attitudes of the white residents of Fairfax County. Prominent white land-

owners such as Gen. J. S. Crocker, Maj. O. E. Hine and Capt. Harmon L. Salsbury created hospitable environments that encouraged the blacks to settle in this area. It would seem that humanitarian aspirations were the driving force behind the actions of these prominent white landowners in selling parcels of land to the blacks. However, economic motivation was probably another factor in this transfer of land.

The primary concerns of the black settlers besides survival, were the establishment of education and religious facilities. The authors' study of the three areas of Vienna, Lewinsville and Forestville revealed that these institutions were high on the black settlers list of priorities. Education was obviously a very important facet of the settlements for wherever the settlements were established, a schoolhouse would inevitably be built. Moreover, religion was extremely important to the settlement as the churches served as cornerstones for the community. Almost every community examined had a church where the blacks attended for worship. In many cases, buildings served the dual purpose of school and church.

The establishment of the Freedmen's Bureau in Fairfax County further eased the settlement of the blacks and alleviated some of the anxieties experienced by the freedmen in the period right after the Civil War. Under Maj. O. E. Hine, countless attempts to take advantage of the freedmen were thwarted by expedient attention to the needs of the freedmen by this agency.

The majority of the black residents in settlements in Fairfax County were employed as laborers. The standard of living for the blacks in Fairfax County after the Civil War was by no means outstanding but this standard of living was exceptional in regards to other impoverished areas in the Deep South.

In Fairfax County, black settlements were promoted by the aid that the organizations and prominent landowners extended to the blacks without qualms. The humanitarian principles held by the landowners of the three areas of Forestville, Vienna and Lewinsville were the primary reason that black settlement in the areas flourished. As a result black settlement in Fairfax County was a patch of exceptional tranquility among turbulent waters.

Endnotes

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² *Ibid.*

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⁴ Airutheus Ambush Taylor, *The Negro Reconstruction in Virginia*, p.93.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Enquirer*, November 21 and 23, 1866.

⁷ *Whig*, January 10, 1870 and January 14, 1871.

- ⁸. Hamilton Donald Henderson, *The Negro Freedman*, p. 5.
- ⁹. Elizabeth Kilham, "Sketches in Color," *Putnam's Magazine*, Vol. 15, p. 207.
- ¹⁰. *New York Tribune*, July 6, 1877, Vol. 8, p. 1
- ¹¹. "Colored Working Men's Homes in Virginia," *Southern Workman*, Vol. 10, March 1881, p. 34.
- ¹². Nan Netherton and others, *Fairfax County, Virginia: A History*, p. 395.
- ¹³. Unpublished letter from Edward Shield to Captain S. P. Lee, dated June 20, 1868.
- ¹⁴. *Ibid*, p. 379.
- ¹⁵. Hamilton James Eckenrode, *The Political History of Virginia During the Reconstruction*, p. 58. (See Appendix A).
- ¹⁶. *Ibid*, (See Appendix B).
- ¹⁷. *Ibid*.
- ¹⁸. Unpublished letter from Edward Shield to Captain S. P. Lee, dated September 20, 1868.
- ¹⁹. Eckenrode, *op. cit.*, p. 58.
- ²⁰. *The Negro in Virginia*, 1940, p. 219.
- ²¹. Grantor Index, Fairfax County, Fairfax Courthouse.
- ²². Personal Interview with Nan Netherton, May 18, 1982, McLean, Virginia.
- ²³. *Ibid*.
- ²⁴. Personal Interview with Milburn Sanders, May 20, 1982, Great Falls, Virginia.
- ²⁵. *Washington Star*, The Rambler, microfilm, Vol. 1, 1911-1927.
- ²⁶. Sanders Interview, *op. cit.*
- ²⁷. *Ibid*.
- ²⁸. Tombstone information, Salem Cemetery, Georgetown Pike, viewed by Andrew Ting, May 20, 1982.
- ²⁹. *Ibid*.
- ³⁰. Book L, #7, Fairfax County Deed Book, p. 55.
- ³¹. Book B, #7, Fairfax County Deed Book, p. 70.
- ³². Sanders Interview, *op. cit.*
- ³³. Book B, #7, *op. cit.*
- ³⁴. Sanders Interview, *op. cit.*
- ³⁵. *Ibid*.
- ³⁶. G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, D.C.*, 1878, p. 76.
- ³⁷. Salem Cemetery, Georgetown Pike.
- ³⁸. Book L, #6, Fairfax County Deed Book, p. 154.
- ³⁹. Population Schedules of the 9th Census of the United States, 1870, Virginia, vol. 9.
- ⁴⁰. Registration of Voters, 1902. Fairfax County, Virginia.
- ⁴¹. *Ibid*.
- ⁴². Book L, #3, Fairfax County Deed Book, p. 483.
- ⁴³. Sanders Interview, *op. cit.*
- ⁴⁴. Personal Interview with Mrs. Otrich Costley, May 22, 1982, McLean, Virginia.
- ⁴⁵. *Ibid*.
- ⁴⁶. Book G, #5, Fairfax County Deed Book, pp. 202-203.
- ⁴⁷. Sanders Interview, *op. cit.*
- ⁴⁸. *Ibid*.
- ⁴⁹. Netherton and others, *op. cit.*, p. 452.
- ⁵⁰. *Ibid.*, p 395.
- ⁵¹. Personal Interview with Mayo Stuntz by the authors, May 21, 1982, Vienna, Virginia.

52. Personal Interview with Richard de Angelis by the authors, May 25, 1982, Vienna, Virginia.
53. Netherton and others, *op. cit.*, p. 451.
54. Andrew Wolf, *Black Settlement in Fairfax County, Virginia During Reconstruction*, p. 35.
55. *Ibid.*, p. 80.
56. Netherton and others, *op. cit.*, p. 451.
57. Population Schedules of the 9th Census of the United States, 1870, Virginia, Volume 9.
58. Netherton and others, *op. cit.*, p. 451.
59. Elizabeth Burke and others, *Vienna Remembered*, p. 26.
60. Wolf, *op. cit.*, p. 30.
61. Burke and others, *op. cit.*, p. 30.
62. Wolf, *op. cit.*, p. 30.
63. De Angelis Interview by author, *op. cit.*
64. Burke and others, *op. cit.*, p. 30.
65. Netherton and others, *op. cit.*, p. 432.
66. Wolf, *op. cit.*, p. 30.
67. Book I, #4, Fairfax County Grantor Index, pp. 108-110.
68. Burke and others, *op. cit.*, p. 28.
69. *Ibid.*, p. 26.
70. Netherton and others, *op. cit.*, p. 432.
71. Fairfax County Grantor Index, pp. 182-196.
72. Wolf, *op. cit.*, p. 32.
73. *Ibid.*, p. 33.
74. Burke and others, *op. cit.*, p. 28 (See Appendix F.).
75. Unpublished letter from O. E. Hine to Mr. Hugh Adams, dated December 6, 1866.
76. Burke and others, *op. cit.*, p. 28.
77. Netherton and others, *op. cit.*, p. 28.
78. Sylvia B. Taylor, *Louise Archer—The Educator and the School*, p. 13.
79. Book E., #5, Fairfax County Deed Book, pp. 291-293.
80. Burke and others, *op. cit.*, p. 28.
81. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 13.
82. Netherton and others, *op. cit.*, p. 432.
83. Wolf, *op. cit.*, p. 81.
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86. Netherton, *op. cit.*
87. Personal interview with Constance Ring, May 7, 1982, Fairfax Courthouse, Virginia.
88. Personal interview with Otrich Costley, May 22, 1982, McLean, Virginia.
89. Wolf, *op. cit.*, p. 53.
90. Costley Interview, *op. cit.* and G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, D.C.*, p. 79.
91. Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
92. *Ibid.*
93. *Ibid.*
94. *Washington Star*, "The Rambler," June 16, 1918.
95. *Ibid.*
96. Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
97. *Ibid.*

- ⁹⁸. Wolf, *op. cit.*, p.54.
- ⁹⁹. Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹⁰⁰. Book of Marriage Registration, Fairfax County, Fairfax Courthouse.
- ¹⁰¹. Netherton and others, *op. cit.*, p. 453.
- ¹⁰². Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹⁰³. *Ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁴. *Ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁵. Michael Joseph Hicks, "History of Pleasant Grove and Gunnel's Chapel", *The Historical Society of Fairfax County Virginia, Inc., Yearbook Vol. 15, 1978-1979, p.68*
- ¹⁰⁶. *Ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁷. Appeals, Fairfax Courthouse.
- ¹⁰⁸. *Ibid.*, p. 12.
- ¹⁰⁹. Book Q, #5, Fairfax County Deed Book, pp. 202-203.
- ¹¹⁰. Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹¹¹. Hicks, *op. cit.*, p. 69.
- ¹¹². Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹¹³. Visit to Pleasant Grove Church, May 9, 1982.
- ¹¹⁴. Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹¹⁵. Registration of Voters, 1902, Fairfax County, Virginia.
- ¹¹⁶. Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹¹⁷. *Ibid.*
- ¹¹⁸. Visit to Bellevue Road area, May 22, 1982, McLean, Virginia.
- ¹¹⁹. Netherton Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹²⁰. Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹²¹. Netherton and others, *op. cit.*, p. 452.
- ¹²². *Ibid.*
- ¹²³. Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹²⁴. Book O, #4, Fairfax County Deed Book, p. 67.
- ¹²⁵. Netherton Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹²⁶. Grantor Index, Fairfax County, Fairfax Courthouse.
- ¹²⁷. Book I, #4, Fairfax County Deed Book, p. 555.
- ¹²⁸. Book of Wills, Fairfax County, Fairfax Courthouse.
- ¹²⁹. Grantor Index, Fairfax County, Fairfax Courthouse.
- ¹³⁰. Grantor Index, Fairfax County, Fairfax Courthouse.
- ¹³¹. Wolf, *op. cit.*, p. 53.
- ¹³². Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹³³. Wolf, *op. cit.*, p. 51.
- ¹³⁴. Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹³⁵. *Ibid.*
- ¹³⁶. Wolf, *op. cit.*, p. 51.
- ¹³⁷. *Ibid.*
- ¹³⁸. Costley Interview, *op. cit.*
- ¹³⁹. Registration of Voters, 1902, Fairfax County, Virginia
- ¹⁴⁰. Personal Interview with Richard de Angelis, May 25, 1982, McLean, Virginia.
- ¹⁴¹. De Angelis Interview, *op. cit.*

Appendix A

Roll of Colored Voters Registered at Tornville Precinct in
(White or Colored)
 BY THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS FOR SAID

Date of Registration	Number	NAME	Date of Birth	Age Years	Occupation
202					
Apr 26 th	1	Lucius Jesse Jr.	1869	32	Labourer
"	2	Lucius Jesse	1838	64	Labourer
27 th	3	Lucius Hilory	1875	29	School Teacher
October 27 th	1	Prince H. F.	1840	62	Labourer
October 27 th	1	Robinson H. M.	1873	26	Labourer
October 27 th	1	Thomson Chas	1845	57	Labourer

Appendix B

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
 HEAD-QUARTERS SUPERINTENDENT FOR ALEXANDRIA, FAIRFAX AND ~~SPOTSYLDEN~~ COUNTIES,

Alexandria, Va., Nov. 6th 1866.

Special Orders }
 No. 18

(Contract)

In compliance with instructions from Asst. Commissioner D. C. Mr. C. C. Hines is hereby appointed Assistant Superintendent of Freedmen's affairs for the County of Fairfax Va. with his office at Vienna, relieving Capt. J. A. Ross, from whom he will receive his instructions necessary to the performance of his duties.

By order of
 Brevet Colonel S. P. Lee
 Newton D. Whittier
 Lieut. and Asst. Supt

Appendix C

Marriage License.

Virginia, *Langley* Co. to-wit:

To any Person Licensed to Celebrate Marriages:

You are hereby authorized to join together in the Holy State of Matrimony, according to the rites and ceremonies of your Church, as religious denomination, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia,

John E. Shepherd
and *Mary E. Henderson*

Given under my hand, as Clerk of the *County* Court of *Langley Co.* this *7* day of *May* 188*8*

CERTIFICATE TO OBTAIN A MARRIAGE LICENSE.

To be returned to the Registrar, required by laws enacted April Nineteen, 1886, and February 27th, 1888.

Time of Marriage. <i>10:00 AM</i>	Place of Husband's Birth. <i>Langley Co.</i>
Place of Marriage. <i>Langley Co.</i>	Place of Wife's Birth. <i>Langley Co.</i>
Full Name of Father of Husband. <i>W. E. Shepherd</i>	Place of Husband's Residence. <i>Langley Co.</i>
<i>Mary E. Henderson</i>	Place of Wife's Residence. <i>Langley Co.</i>
Color of Husband. <i>White</i>	Reason of Husband's Personal Qualification. <i>1st Marriage</i>
Age of Husband. <i>25</i>	Age of Wife. <i>20</i>
Condition of Husband. (without marriage)	Reason of Wife's Personal Qualification. <i>1st Marriage</i>
Condition of Wife. (without marriage)	Reason of Wife's Personal Qualification. <i>1st Marriage</i>

Given under my hand this *7* day of *May* 188*8*

MINISTER'S RETURN OF MARRIAGE.

I Certify, that on the *7* day of *May* 188*8*, at *Langley*, I united in Marriage the above-named and described parties, under authority of the aforesaid License.

John E. Shepherd

NOTE: The Minister celebrating a marriage, if married, shall sign this certificate, in person the same in the Office of the Clerk who issued the same, with an endorsement thereon of the fact of such marriage, and of the time and place of celebrating the same.

Appendix D

AN APPEAL.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE,
LYNCHBURG DISTRICT,
LANGLEY CIRCUIT.

July 188*8*

Charles G. Key Presiding Elder. *Joseph Henry* Preacher in Charge

WHEREAS, we the members and friends of the M. E. Church, at *Adricks Cove* have no house to worship in, and only number *39* members, and desire to erect a house for the worship and glory of God, and for the moral and religious training of our people; and

WHEREAS, We are few and very poor, we do most humbly and earnestly appeal to our friends and the religious public to aid us in securing the above named object. Any donations in money or otherwise will be thankfully received and faithfully applied.

Samuel Shepherd the bearer, is hereby authorized to obtain subscribers and to collect funds.

NAMES.	NAMES.
<i>Wm. Bear</i>	<i>\$5.75</i>
<i>E. J. Bogue</i>	<i>1.00</i>
	<i>1.00</i>



Lee Chapel A Brief History

Compiled by
Helen Simpson Meeks

Acknowledgements

To the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc: for allowing us the privilege of sharing this brief history of Lee Chapel Church.

To my husband, Thomas E. Meeks: for his guidance, encouragement and help, in researching Lee Chapel's history.

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Lee Chapel

Lee Chapel Cemetery is located at the intersection of Pohick and Lee Chapel Roads, near Burke, in Fairfax County, Va. On the site, which is owned by the United Methodist Church, are two concrete posts flanking a short walk which leads to a lone set of steps. To some, the scene is a mute and stirring reminder of a rich heritage. To others, it is a strange and eerie sight, which triggers questions, such as Who walked those steps? Where did they lead?

Those sturdy old steps led into an old frame church, called Lee Chapel, where the Bible was held to be the word of God, and man was believed to be his brother's keeper. They were walked by some of the

oldest and most respected families in Fairfax County. Most of those people are gone, as is the church that graced those steps, but their influence on the community as a whole will ever be with us.

Lee Chapel's predecessor, Mount Carmel Church, predated the War Between the States¹ and was located at the intersection of what is now Rt. 123 (Ox Road) and Lee Chapel Road, about one mile south of the present cemetery. Sometime during the War Between the States, Gen. Jubal A. Early's brigade encamped in the immediate vicinity of Mt. Carmel Church.² It is believed that Mt. Carmel was destroyed by fire during the war. Many long-time residents remember seeing the old ruins which were on the property, later referred to as "Painter's Place." A knoll near Mt. Carmel was remembered locally as "Red Clay Hill."³ Whether or not the red clay created a problem and led to the offering of a new site on Pohick Road, is anybody's guess. It has been said that after the new site was offered, a meeting was held to determine whether to rebuild on the original site or move to the new. The new site won by a majority of one vote. Later it was learned that the deciding vote was cast by a young woman who was not a member.⁴

The new church, named Lee Chapel (in honor of Gen. Robert E. Lee, who had died on October 12, 1870), was built in 1871 on one acre of land situated at the intersection of Pohick Road and Mill Road (now Lee Chapel Road). The land was given to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by Mr. Leonard O. Cook of the County of Fairfax. In deeding the land, Mr. Cook expressed his love for the community and respect for the Methodist Church and included the trust clause which reads as follows: "In trust that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, subject to the discipline, usage and ministerial appointments of said Church as from time to time authorized and declared by the general conference of said Church and the annual conference of said Church within whose bounds the premises are situate." The trustees, named in the deed, were: John S. Powell, John H. Hammill, Richard L. Nevitt, James Cranford and Robert Wiley.⁵

When completed, Lee Chapel measured approximately 24 by 40 feet, having eight windows, two in the front and three on each side. Although very modest, the interior was quite lovely. The walls were stained wainscot to a height of about three feet. The upper walls and high ceiling were plastered white. Seven pews stood on either side of the center aisle. Upon entering the church, looking forward, one would see a platform, the width of the church, raised about one step high. In the center was the pulpit elevated yet another step. Behind the pulpit, on the platform, was a pulpit chair (later two chairs). On the platform to the left stood the organ,

and behind the organ, two choir benches. On the right stood a narrow table about four feet long. Also on the right, against the back wall, was a smaller table, on which rested two wooden collection plates.

An opening on either end of the chancel rail allowed for mounting the platform. The church was heated by two wood stoves and lighted, when necessary, by kerosene lamps. Two of the lamps hung from the ceiling, the others were attached to the window frames about six feet from the floor.

Lee Chapel was a member of the Occoquan Circuit of the Washington District of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Other churches on this circuit were Occoquan, Woodbridge, Oak Grove and Lewis Chapel (later Cranford Memorial). Sometime after, Silverbrook joined and in 1909/10, Sydenstricker was added.⁶

From the beginning, Lee Chapel was known for being a spiritual church. Many of the families started each day with prayer and Bible reading. At least one member, Mrs. Harriett Rice, felt the need to spend one day each week in prayer and fasting, taking nothing but a little weak tea. This she continued until her death in 1906. She and her husband, Mr. James H. Rice, were in Lee Chapel from its beginning and are buried in the churchyard cemetery.

Sunday was an all day affair of services and fellowship at Lee Chapel Church. Many of the members came by wagon, from as far away as Occoquan, Wolf Run Shoals, Swetnam (Fairfax Station) and Burke's Station. Because of the long distance traveled, many would bring their lunch and picnic in the churchyard.

In 1887, one-half acre adjoining the church property was given to the church, in care of Mr. W. F. Halley, by Mr. John W. Mahon and his wife Jennie.⁷ It is believed that around the same time they began using the churchyard as a cemetery. It is also believed that the first burials at Lee Chapel were Mrs. Catherine Forbes, age 45, interred in 1887, and a Civil War veteran whose name and date of death is uncertain.⁸

In 1903, the Lee Chapel Epworth League, Chapter 5832, was organized. The League was set up with a president, four vice presidents, a treasurer and a secretary. Each vice president had a unique responsibility. The first was in charge of monthly prayer meetings in the church; the second saw that the sick and needy were visited and provided for; the third presented a literary program each month; and the fourth was responsible for raising money for special needs, such as missions.⁹ Lee Chapel Epworth League was extremely well organized and the long-time secretary, Mrs. Edna Force Davis, did a superb job of recording the minutes. Under the leadership of its president, Mr. Robert H. Rice, the League flourished, especially from 1908 to nearly 1920. According to the League Minute Book (1914-1918), charter members still active after eleven years

were: Mr. Robert H. Rice, Mrs. H. D. Rice, Mr. Hervey Rice, Mrs. Rena Wyckoff, Miss Bessie Sangster, Mr. J. J. Sangster, Miss Sally Halley, Mrs. Mollie Jones and Mrs. Blanch Davis.¹⁰ (The flyleaf of the Minute Book shows that in 1914, the Occoquan Circuit was then the Alexandria District of the Baltimore Conference.)

The League met monthly, usually in the homes of members, for fellowship with Scripture and singing, and to discuss the needs of the community in general and the church in particular. They not only discussed the issues, they took positive steps, helping the poor and ill locally, as well as in foreign missions. The minutes of the League meetings attest to many barrels of food and fruits being sent to the Home for the Incurables and Florence Crittenden Home, in Washington, D. C. Often, as many as 51 visits to the sick were reported for the month. Clothing, food and financial aid were given to needy families. By 1916, the League had grown to a membership of 84, scattered over a wide area of eastern Fairfax County.¹¹ There were few who were not touched in some way by the love of this group.

Roads in the area were a problem, making transportation to the church difficult. In the August 12, 1904 edition of *The Fairfax Herald*, the obituary of William E. Simpson, son of James H. Simpson, noted: "His funeral took place Tuesday afternoon from his home on Pohick road and he was interred in the churchyard of Lee Chapel, where an instructive eulogy was preached by the Rev. Mr. Adams, of Manassas. It is regrettable to state, however, that the condition of the public road near Rice's farm is in a deplorable state, and had it not been for the kindness of Mr. H. D. Rice, who took down several panels of his fence in order that the funeral cortege could leave the impassable road and cross his fields, the hearse never would have been able to reach the church."¹²

The ministers serving Lee Chapel Church between 1904 and 1911 were: Rev. J. W. Dorsey, Rev. Charles Lynch and Rev. C. Sydenstricker.¹³ In 1908/9, Mr. Robert H. Rice, church steward, kept a memoranda of those paying toward the salary of the Rev. C. Sydenstricker. Sad to say, only two pages of the book remain. Surnames listed on those pages were: Cowling, Chesley, Duvall, Elgin, Halley, Jones, Keys, Marshall, Rice, Riggles, Simpson, Stone, Swetnam and Wyckoff.¹⁴ Surnames that would have been listed on the missing pages are: Davis, Sangster, Dodson, and perhaps others.¹⁵

By 1910, the church, which had been standing nearly 40 years, was badly in need of repair. Steps were taken to repair the roof and add a vestibule, bell tower and cement walk. Upon completion of the work, Mr. Clarence Kruse submitted his bill for the building of two new flues and the cement gate posts. Mr. A. W. Grimsley, Mr. A. L. Harrover and Mr. James Harrover submitted bills for carpentry work. The total cost of the

project was \$217.92 and was paid by Mr. J. B. Davis, treasurer of the Lee Chapel Building Committee.¹⁶ Not only was Mr. Davis the treasurer of the Building Committee but he and his two brothers, Isaiah and Callie, made the shingles for the new roof. Their father, Mr. George Davis, was a cooper and had taught the trade to his sons. "It was a lark for them, recalling the skills they had learned as boys." Those improvements gave a charm to the old church, which many remember. In order to make repairs and additions such as this, it was necessary to have means of raising money over and above the regular dues, which were five cents per month. This was accomplished by oyster suppers, ice cream socials and box suppers, usually held at Belle Aire or Ox Road School or in the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Davis.¹⁸

To take care of a "greater concern," it was necessary to hold tent meetings from time to time. It is recorded that on July 21, 1914, the League loaned the church \$22 to rent a tent, to be used for meetings to be held in Mr. Frank Davis' grove. When the meetings were over, the League was promptly reimbursed. In the following League meeting, August 26, 1914, it was recorded, "Our Pastor told us that our greatest concern should be that others know about our Saviour."¹⁹

By 1915, it was becoming evident that more ground, for burial purposes, was needed. At a meeting held March 16, 1915, in the home of Mr. Chesley, Mr. Robert Rice was appointed to negotiate the purchase of one additional acre of land adjoining the churchyard.²⁰ The land belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kruse, who had acquired it by will from his mother, Mrs. Lucinda M. Kruse.²¹ A Committee was also appointed, consisting of Mr. Jack Sangster, Mr. O. W. Chesley and Mr. Robert Rice, to formulate plans by which those wishing burial space in the church yard could acquire a title to the same.²²

Mr. Rice talked to Mr. Kruse and wrote to the presiding elder, the Rev. Mr. D. H. Kern (spelling uncertain), explaining the need for additional land and seeking advice. The Elder responded by letter dated March 30, 1915, Alexandria, Va. He advised that since the land sought adjoined the church lot, the deed should be made out to the Trustees of Lee Chapel and should have the trust clause inserted. He explained that "sometime it might be desirable to use part of the lot for a new church," etc., and it could "save trouble."²³

Upon receipt of the letter from Rev. Kern, Mr. Rice jotted a note on the bottom and forwarded the same to Mr. Joseph Berry, county surveyor. He explained that Mr. Kruse had consented to deed one acre to the church lot and asked that Mr. Berry come and establish the corners. Mr. Rice received a reply from Mr. Berry, dated April 12, 1915, requesting more data so as to keep the "records straight." The necessary information was sent to Mr. Berry, including the names of the church trustees, who were:

William W. Dodson, Lovell M. Davis, Robert E. Marshall and Abraham L. Duvall.²⁴

At the next meeting of the Epworth League, held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Marshall, Mr. Rice reported that the one acre adjoining the Lee Chapel graveyard could be purchased for \$5. Motion was made and carried that the \$5 be paid for the said purchase.²⁵ On April 24, 1915, Mr. Joseph Berry and Mr. Rice got together, at which time the entire church lot of 2½ acres was surveyed and the deed, with trust clause, was drawn up. Mr. Berry submitted his bill for "getting data from Fairfax for survey of Church lots, survey and deed \$8.00." He received payment the same day.²⁶ The deed is recorded in Fairfax Liber W7, page 387-388.²⁷

In December 1915, the League purchased two pulpit chairs and in January 1916, voted to give the old chair to the parsonage in Occoquan. By April 1916, Rev. Harvey Bivens, who had been pastor for a number of years following the Rev. L. V. Atkins, made way for a new pastor, the Rev. J. B. Randall.²⁸ The Epworth League was asked to assist in furnishing the parsonage with new furniture and a telephone. This they did and, in December 1916, it was voted that the insurance on church property be increased to \$900 with a premium of \$4.24 annually.²⁹

The endeavors of Lee Chapel were always undergirded by prayer. In August 1917 preparations were made for a coming revival. Recorded of a meeting, held August 21, 1917, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Rice, was the following: "The Department program was dispensed with and the time used by Bro. Randall for a special prayer service and instructions that should make the coming revival service, to be held at Lee Chapel, the success that it should be. Motion made and carried that another prayer meeting be held at Mr. I. M. Davis on the following Thursday night."³⁰

Inspirational lives were often held up as an example toward excellence. At a meeting held February 20, 1917, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Duvall, a memorial honoring Mr. Edward Chesley, faithful member of Lee Chapel, was recorded as follows: "Forasmuch as it hath pleased almighty God in his wise providence, to remove from this life to the beautiful and more abundant life in Heaven, the soul of our brother in Christ, Mr. Edward Chesley, and whereas Mr. Chesley was a devoted Epworth Leaguer having concentrated his efforts upon the development of the young people, and was a constant and earnest worker in the Lee Chapel Sunday School, where he labored faithfully until he was too feeble to longer engage in active service, therefore let it be resolved, that we, the members of the Epworth League of Lee Chapel and we the members of Lee Chapel Sunday School, do hereby express our deep regret at his removal from our midst, secondly, that we hereby extend to his sorrowing and devoted widow and son our deepest sympathy, commending them to God, and who alone can give the comfort their hearts hunger for. Thirdly that the life of this devout and consecrated Christian be an

inspiration to us to be more faithful to the duties set before us and that his death be received by us who are left, as a solemn warning from above, that we strive always to heed the divine injunction, 'be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man shall come,' fourthly that copies of these resolutions be sent to the family and to the Baltimore Southern Methodist for publication and that they be spread on the minutes of the Epworth League."

Recorded by Edna Davis, Sec.³¹

In November, 1917, Rev. Randall moved out of the parsonage and a young bachelor, the Rev. Gordon Ellis Smith, moved in.³² His Aunt Margaret Woolf served as lady of the house.³³ The years as pastor on the Occoquan Circuit were not easy for Rev. Smith. It is said that he had to postpone his wedding at one time, due to the pressing need for burial services for the flu victims. But in November 1918 he took a 'bride, the former Miss May Barron, into the parsonage.³⁴ Rev. Smith served Lee Chapel as pastor until 1920.³⁵ He had a special rapport with young people and was destined to continue a lifetime dedication to the young. In later years he went on to become principal of Fairfax High School. In the 1939 *Fare Fac Sampler*, his influence was expressed well: "We, the class of 1939, wish to express our sincere appreciation to Gordon E. Smith, the Master Pioneer of Fairfax High School, for his excellent leadership, his sympathetic guidance and his untiring efforts in clearing the uncertain paths all along the trail."³⁶

From 1920-1923 the Rev. J. W. Beall was pastor.³⁷ Times became increasingly difficult for Lee Chapel, as a church. Attendance had fallen for a variety of reasons, including bad roads. Several of the most dedicated church workers had moved and the church building was in need of repairs, but no funds were available. It was mentioned at the Quarterly Conference meeting in 1921, that the Trustees of Lee Chapel were authorized to dispose of the present church. An added note indicated, "church to be erected in another location."³⁸ However, Lee Chapel was still on record in 1923 as being a contributing member of the Occoquan Circuit.³⁹ Other churches on the circuit at that time were: Occoquan, Woodbridge, Bethel, Silverbrook, Cranford and Sydenstricker, with the Rev. Glenn J. Cooper, serving as pastor in 1923-1924.⁴⁰

Sometime thereafter, Lee Chapel was closed. Some of the items used in the worship service were distributed among the members for safekeeping. The wooden collection plates were left in the church with two coins—symbolic of the "widow's mite"—in them. For many years the church sat unused except on rare occasions. The large key to the sanctuary was kept on the ledge above the vestibule door. Those knowing this were free to enter for a quiet moment when visiting the cemetery. Never, in all those years, was there evidence of vandalism. Even the coins in the collection plates lay untouched.

Among the objects distributed for safekeeping was a chalice. Many will be happy to learn that it is still in existence. Mr. Dwight Lee Hubbard has been kind enough to photograph it and share with us how it came into his possession. Mr. Hubbard relates:

In 1962 my grandmother, Mary Keys Taylor, gave me this chalice and said it was the communion glass or cup from Lee Chapel church. She said when the church 'broke up' various ones took objects of value for safekeeping. The intent was to save them while waiting for the re-opening.⁴¹

When the church was finally reopened, the single communion chalice was no longer used in Lee Chapel.

By 1938, a number of new families had moved into the area. They, along with former members of Lee Chapel, sought and received permission to reopen the church. Spearheaded by Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Dye, the effort was successful, with money, material, labor, and even an organ, being donated to the cause.

On August 6, 1939, Lee Chapel was officially reopened. It was a jubilant day of celebration. Tables were set up in the churchyard, laden with food. Lemonade was made by the barrelful. Old-timers and newcomers joined in one accord, singing hymns and rejoicing that the old church was open. Even the press was present. Collection for the day was \$25.46.⁴²

In 1939, Lee Chapel was added to the Occoquan Circuit of the Alexandria District of the Virginia Methodist Conference of the Methodist Church. The steward named was F. W. Simpson⁴³ (Mrs. Bruce Simpson, the former Miss Frances Rice). Other churches on the Occoquan Circuit at that time were Occoquan, Woodbridge, Cranford, Silverbrook, with the Rev. Delford N. Calvert, pastor.⁴⁴ Church services were held at Lee Chapel twice monthly with Sunday School every Sunday. Officers were: Mr. Benjamin Dye, Sunday School Superintendent; Mrs. Dolores Snyder, Secretary; and Mrs. Bruce Simpson, Treasurer and Organist. At the beginning there were 20 church members, representing 10 families, with an average Sunday School attendance of 25.⁴⁵

In October 1942, Lee Chapel was taken off the Occoquan Circuit⁴⁶ and put on the East Fairfax Circuit, where it remained until October 1943, with Reverend S. M. Iglehart as pastor. From there it went to the Providence Circuit. In 1944, they began to hold church services every Sunday. Other churches on the Providence Circuit at that time were: Vale, Pender and Sydenstricker. Pastors who served Lee Chapel on the Providence Circuit were: Rev. H. B. Pannel, Rev. George Holcombe, Rev. Carlton Hodges, Rev. George Waters, Rev. Frederick Croft and Rev. Rodney Croyle.⁴⁷

Over the years membership grew to 44, representing 22 families. Sunday School enrollment was 43 with an average attendance of 25.⁴⁸ Shortly after Lee Chapel opened, a well was dug and a hand pump installed, but it wasn't until 1949 that the church had electricity.⁴⁹ During the cold months, it was necessary for someone to arrive at the church early, to start the fires, as the church was still heated by wood. This job was usually held by young boys in the church, at a monthly salary of \$5.⁵⁰

There were some in Lee Chapel who exemplified the phrase, "widows mite." Not only did they give out of their meager means, but they gave freely of themselves, often walking over two miles to the church in order to serve. Teachers such as Mrs. Lillie Long, Mrs. Vivian Riley and Mrs. Frances Simpson cannot go unrecognized. The average weekly collection was \$10. The pastor's salary ranged from \$200 to \$300 per year.⁵¹ An active Ladies Aid Society contributed, when needed, to cover any deficit in the budget.⁵² What Lee Chapel lacked in numbers and financial status was certainly more than compensated for by dedication.

On June 13, 1951, in the rural area of Burke, life began as usual. But before the day was over many learned that their property had been included in the 4500 acres selected for a proposed Burke National Airport.⁵³ Reporters flooded the area, quoting, and sometimes misquoting, residents' reactions. Shortly after, a list was published with the names of owners, tract numbers, acreage, and estimated appraisals of 1,045.85 of the 4500 acres.⁵⁴ Sixteen of Lee Chapel's 22 families were involved. For them it was difficult. For Lee Chapel, it was the beginning of the end.

By the fall of 1951, many of the church families had moved. When the decision was finally made to locate the airport in Chantilly, instead of Burke, it was too late. Lee chapel was officially closed in October 1951.⁵⁵ The first entry in the stewards book, dated August 6, 1939, was \$25.46. The last entry in the stewards book shows a balance on hand of \$10.62.⁵⁶ What lay between the first and last entry can never be measured in dollars and cents. What lay between were 12 years of good words, well spoken, which shall not return void.

For some time, Lee Chapel stood undisturbed. But there came a day when it became evident that it was under assault by vandals. At this time the church organ was taken to the home of Mrs. W. F. Halley for safe-keeping.⁵⁷ Later it was given to Mrs. Bruce (Frances Rice) Simpson, who had been the church organist for 12 years. It is now in the possession of her son, Mr. Bernard B. Simpson, of Woodbridge, Va. Some believe the pews were given to a Mennonite church. Later vandals moved in with a vengeance. Many tombstones and parts of the building were carried away. It finally became necessary to control burn all that remained of the old church.⁵⁸ This was bitter news for many who had deep roots in Lee

Chapel. As a memorial, a stone was put in place by Mr. Roy Carson. It reads: "LEE CHAPEL CHURCH ERECTED 1871."⁵⁹

The Reverend Delford N. Calvert, Retired Minister, recalls:

There are times when pleasant experiences come to us when we least expect them. In 1939 my District Superintendent came to me and said, 'Brother Calvert, we are reopening Lee Chapel and would like to add it to the Occoquan Circuit.' 'What is your opinion?' 'We would be glad to have it,' I responded.

Soon amid much preparation, the day of reopening came. There was much publicity in one of the Washington papers, and a large crowd gathered for the first service.

There were many pleasant moments as I served Lee Chapel. The services were well attended and the people were friendly, warm-hearted, and cooperative. I am glad that I can be numbered among the pastors of this fine country church.

Incidentally one afternoon as I was on my way to the service, I turned my car radio on and heard the announcement of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Several years ago I drove down the road over which I used to travel. I stopped at the spot where Lee Chapel once stood. Many memories came into my mind. The building was gone, but the spirit of those days is still in the hearts of many people. I for one feel that warmth.⁶⁰

Lee Chapel cemetery now resides under the care of Sydenstricker United Methodist Church.⁶¹ This hallowed bit of ground is fast becoming surrounded by an affluent society and enjoyable parks. It is not uncommon to see girl scouts, boy scouts, and other groups busy tidying up the cemetery for the annual Sunrise Service held on the premises. In her time, Lee Chapel cared deeply for her community. It is good that the community now remembers, respects, and cares for Lee Chapel.

Footnotes

- ¹. Miss Hazel Davis, Hampton, Va. (member of Lee Chapel Church and Epworth League.)
- ². Hand drawn Civil War map, on file in Map Div. of Natl. Archives, showing location of Mt. Carmel Church.
- ³. Mr. Frank Rice (long-time resident and member of Lee Chapel Church and Epworth League.)
- ⁴. Miss Hazel Davis.
- ⁵. Deed from Leonard O. Cook to Trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Fairfax Land Record, Liber M4, pg. 235-236.)
- ⁶. Quarterly Conference Records (hereafter cited as Q. C. Records) of Occoquan Circuit.
- ⁷. Deed from John W. and Jennie Mahon to Trustees of Lee Chapel Church (Fairfax Land Records, Liber G5, pg. 227.)
- ⁸. Mrs. Naomi Mahon, Lorton, Va. Personal Interview, by telephone, Dec. 7, 1982.
- ⁹. Lee Chapel Epworth League Record Book (1914-1918), pg. 13-14. (Hereafter cited as Lee Chapel E. L. R. Book.)
- ¹⁰. Lee Chapel E. L. R. Book, pg. 3 and 39.
- ¹¹. Ibid, pg. 26, 84 and 129.
- ¹². *Fairfax Herald*, Aug. 12, 1904.
- ¹³. Q. C. Records, Occoquan Circuit (1904-1911).
- ¹⁴. Memoranda, Robert Rice papers.
- ¹⁵. Lee Chapel E. L. R. Book.
- ¹⁶. Lee Chapel Building Committee Treasurer's report, Jan. 1, 1911 and original notes, memoranda, bills, letters and receipts, which concern Lee Chapel, now in possession of Mrs. Helen Simpson Meeks, of Woodbridge, Va. (hereafter cited as, Robert Rice papers).
- ¹⁷. Miss Hazel Davis.
- ¹⁸. Lee Chapel E. L. R. Book, pg. 109 and 134. Robert Rice Papers.
- ¹⁹. Ibid, pg. 27-29
- ²⁰. Ibid, pg. 53.
- ²¹. Robert Rice papers.
- ²². Lee Chapel E. L. R. Book, pg. 53.
- ²³. Robert Rice papers.
- ²⁴. Robert Rice papers.
- ²⁵. Lee Chapel E. L. R. Book, pg. 54.
- ²⁶. Robert Rice papers.
- ²⁷. Deed from Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kruse to Trustees of Lee Chapel Church (Fairfax Land Records, Liber W7, pg. 387-388).
- ²⁸. Q. C. Records, Occoquan Circuit (1912-1916).
- ²⁹. Lee Chapel E. L. R. Book, pg. 94-95 and 99.
- ³⁰. Ibid, pg. 121.
- ³¹. Ibid, pg. 109-111.
- ³². Q. C. Records, Occoquan Circuit (1917). Lee Chapel E. L. R. Book, pg. 127.
- ³³. Mr. Gordon B. Smith. Personal Interview by telephone, Dec. 5, 1982.
- ³⁴. Ibid.
- ³⁵. Q. C. Records, Occoquan Circuit.
- ³⁶. *Fare Fac Sampler* (1939).
- ³⁷. Q. C. Records, Occoquan Circuit (1920).
- ³⁸. Ibid, (1921).
- ³⁹. Ibid, (1923).

40. Ibid, (1923-1924).
41. Mr. Dwight Lee Hubbard, personal letter dated, Jan. 4, 1983.
42. *Washington Times Herald*, Aug. 8, 1939. Lee Chapel Stewards Book (1939-1951).
43. Q. C. Records, Occoquan Circuit (1939).
44. Ibid.
45. Lee Chapel Stewards Book (1939-1951).
46. Q. C. Records, Occoquan Circuit (1942), Lee Chapel Stewards Book (1939-1951).
47. Lee Chapel Stewards Book (1939-1951). Mrs. Virginia Neish, Personal Interview, by telephone, Dec. 7, 1982.
48. Lee Chapel Sunday School Record Book (1948-1951).
49. Mr. Robert E. Simpson, Personal Interview, Dec. 11, 1982.
50. Mr. James W. Simpson, Personal Interview, Dec. 13, 1982.
51. Lee Chapel Stewards Book (1939-1951).
52. Ibid.
53. *Washington Post*, June 14, 1951. Letter from United States Attorney concerning the Proposed Burke National Airport (among personal papers of Mr. J. B. Simpson).
54. List of Tract Nos., Acreage and owners of condemned property, published in Washington newspaper (uncertain of which paper).
55. Lee Chapel Stewards Book (1939-1951).
56. Ibid.
57. Mrs. W. F. Halley, Personal Interview, by telephone, Dec. 10, 1982.
58. Mrs. Olivia Carson, Personal Interview, by telephone, Dec. 10, 1982 and Dec. 16, 1982.
59. Ibid.
60. Rev. Delford N. Calvert, Retired Minister, personal letter dated January 3, 1983.
61. Rev. R. Beverly Watkins, Dist. Supt. Alexandria Dist., United Methodist Church in Northern Virginia, letter dated Apr. 29, 1982.

Appendices

- Appendix A — Typed copy of Deed from Leonard O. Cook to Trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for one acre. (Fx. Deeds, Liber M4, pg. 235-236.)
- Appendix B — Typed copy of Deed from John W. Mahon and his wife to Trustees of Lee Chapel Church. (Fx. Deeds, Liber G5, pg. 227.)
- Appendix C — Typed copy of Deed from Clarence H. Kruse and Johanna T. Kruse, his wife, to Trustees of Lee Chapel Church. (Fx. Deeds, Liber W7, pg. 387-388.)
- Appendix D — Partial list of ministers who served Lee Chapel Church.
- Appendix E — List of members, Lee Chapel Epworth League, (Jan., 1914-July, 1918.)
- Appendix F — List of officers, Lee Chapel Epworth League, (1915-1918.)
- Appendix G — Partial list of persons interred in Lee Chapel cemetery (as of Dec. 30, 1982.)
- Appendix H — List of members of Lee Chapel Church (1939-1951).

Appendix A

1871 Deed
(Fx. Deeds, Liber M4, pages 235-236)

This deed made this sixteenth day of March Eighteen hundred and seventy one between Leonard O. Cook of the County of Fairfax and State of Virginia party of the first part and John S. Powell, John H. Hammill, Richard L. Nevitt, James Cranford, Robert Wiley, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South or their successors in office qualified and appointed according to the discipline of said Church, parties of the second part witnesseth that for and in consideration of the love which the said Leonard O. Cook bears to the community in which he resides and the respect entertained for the said Church with other considerations him moving does grant bargain, release and quit claim unto the parties of the second part a certain lot of land situate in the Township of Lee County of Fairfax and State of Virginia now particularly bounded and described as follows.

Beginning at a planted stone where the Pohick Road intersects the Mill Road (a cluster of White Oak trees now marked) and running North Easterly Seventy yards to a planted stone thence East seventy yards to another planted stone, thence in a Southerly direction seventy yards to a planted stone on _____ side of Pohick Road, thence up the Pohick Road and binding therewith to the place of beginning supposed to contain one acre of land, In Trust that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, subject to the discipline, usage and ministerial appointments of said Church as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church and the annual Conference of Said Church within whose bounds the premises are situate. Witness the following signature and seal.

Leonard O. Cook (seal)

Wm. Martin

District of Columbia Washington County

I William Martin a Justice of the Peace in and for said County do certify that personally appeared before me Leonard O. Cook party to foregoing deed bearing date 16th day of March 1871 and hereto annexed and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed. Given under my hand this 16th day of March 1871.

Wm. Martin J P (seal)

Appendix B

1887 Deed
(Fx. Deeds, Liber G5, page 227)

This Deed, made this 27th day of August, 1887, between John W. Mahon, and wife, of the first part, and the Trustees of Lee Chapel, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of the second part Witnesseth, that in consideration of the sum of one dollar, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said parties of the first part, doth bargain and sell to the parties of the second part, and their successors in office, duly appointed and qualified, for the use and benefit of said Lee Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the following described property, lying in the County of Fairfax, and the State of Virginia—To-wit: The lot of land lying on Pohick Road and, adjoining the lot conveyed by Leonard Cook, to the said Trustees, and bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the corner of the Lee Chapel lot on the Pohick Road, and running along the line of said lot in a Northeasterly direction to another corner of said lot about 70 yards, thence in a Southeasterly direction 35 yards, thence in a southwesterly direction 70 yards to Pohick Road, thence along the Pohick Road about 35 yards to the beginning, containing one half of an acre. The same being part of a tract of land purchased by John W. Mahon and wife, of the heirs of Leonard O. Cook, deceased. Witness our hands and seals this 27 day of August, 1887.

John Mahon (seal)

Teste as to John Mahon's
signature, Nicholas R. Dorsey J. P.

Jennie Mahon (seal)

State of Virginia
Fairfax County, to-wit:

We, J. E. Marks, and P. L. Evans, Justices of the Peace in and for said County, hereby certify that, Jennie Mahon, the wife of John W. Mahon, whose names are signed to the foregoing writing, bearing date the 27th day of August, 1887, personally appeared before us, in our County aforesaid, and being examined by us privily and apart from her husband, and having the said writing fully explained to her, she, the said Jennie Mahon acknowledged the same to be her act, that she had willingly executed the same and does not wish to retract it. Given under our hands, this 27th day of August, 1887. Anno Domini.

J. E. Marks J. P.

P. L. Evans J. P.

Appendix C

1915 Deed

(Fx. Deeds, Liber W7, pages 387-388)

This deed, made this the 24th day of April, 1915, by and between Clarence H. Kruse and Johanna T. Kruse, his wife, parties of the first part, and William W. Dodson, Lovel M. Davis, Robert E. Marshall, and Abraham L. Duvall, Trustees of the Lee Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, South, parties of the second part:

Witnesseth:—Whereas by deed dated March 16th, 1871, Leonard O. Cook conveyed to the Trustees of Lee Chapel Church one acre of land and by deed dated August 27th, 1887, John W. Mahon conveyed to the said trustees one half acre: and

whereas the parties of the first part are the owners of the adjoining land to the above described two lots, and the descriptions of the said lots are indefinite: and

whereas the said trustees desire to purchase additional land adjoining the original lots: and all of the parties hereto desire to have the boundaries definitely fixed:

Now therefore this deed witnesseth that the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the premises and the sum of five dollars to them in hand paid by the parties of the second part, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said parties of the second part, and their successors in office forever, with general warranty, all of that certain parcel of land situated in Lee Magisterial District, Fairfax County, Virginia and fully described recent survey made by Joseph Berry, County Surveyor, as follows:

Beginning at a stake, stone to be set, on the Northeasterly side of the Pohick Road and on the Southeasterly side of the Burke Station Road; thence with the said side of the Burke Station Road, N. 34 Deg. 00'E. 317.8 ft. to a stake, stone to be set, thence leaving the road S. 26 deg. 50'E. 469.6 ft. to a stake, stone to be set, thence S. 63 deg. 10'W. 277.5 ft. to stake, stone to be set, on the said side of the Pohick Road; thence with the side of the Road N. 26 deg. 50'W. 315 ft. to the beginning. Containing two and one half acres, less and except, however, the tract of one acre and the tract of one half acre formerly conveyed to the trustees of Lee Chapel as above stated, the two former conveyances with the additional one acre now acquired are all described in this one description, the two original conveyances being entirely within the above described lot of two and one half acres.

This land is conveyed to the said parties of the second part and their successors, in trust, that said premises be used, kept, maintained and

disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, subject to the discipline, usage and ministerial appointments of said church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said church, and by the annual Conference within those bounds the said premises are situated.

The land herein conveyed being a portion of the land acquired by the said Clarence H. Kruse by will from his mother Lucinda M. Kruse.

Witness the following signatures and seals.

Clarence H. Kruse (seal)

Johanna T. Kruse (seal)

Appendix D

Partial List of Ministers
of
Lee Chapel, M. E. Church, South
(Occoquan Circuit 1871-1924)

Rev. Charles E. Simmons	1896
Rev. D. L. Blakemore	?
Rev. J. W. Dorsey	1904-1906
Rev. Charles Lynch	1906-1907
Rev. C. Sydenstricker	1907-1911
Rev. George Hydrick, Jr. Pastor	
Rev. L. V. Atkins	1911-1914
Rev. J. F. Edmonds, Jr. Pastor	
Rev. Harvey Bivens	1914-1916
Rev. J. B. Randall	1916-1917
Rev. Gordon E. Smith	1917-1920
Rev. J. W. Beall	1920-1923
Rev. Glenn J. Cooper	1923-1924

Ministers of Lee Chapel Methodist Church
(1939-1951)

Occoquan Circuit

Rev. Delford N. Calvert	1939-1942
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East Fairfax Circuit

Rev. S. M. Iglehart	1942-1943
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Providence Circuit

Rev. H. Burnell Pannel	1944-1946
Rev. George Holcombe	1946-1947
Rev. Carlton Hodges	1947-1948
Rev. George Waters	1948-1949
Rev. Frederick Croft	1949-1949
Rev. Rodney Croyle	1949-1950
Rev. Frederick Croft	1950-1951

Appendix E

Lee Chapel Epworth League

List of Members, Jan., 1914-July, 1918

(by date joined)

Date Joined	Name	Date Removed From Rolls
Dec. 1903*	Robert Henry Rice	
	Mrs. H. D. Rice	
	Hervey Rice	
	Mrs. Rena Wycoff	1917
	Miss Bessie Sangster	1915
	Mr. Jno. J. Sangster	
	Miss Sallie Halley	
	Mrs. Mollie Jones	
	Mrs. Blanch Davis	
Apr. 1904	Mr. Clarence Wycoff	1914 (died May 24)
Nov. 1904	Mrs. Alice Chesley	
June 1905	Mr. C. W. Jones	1917
July 1906	Miss Nellie Swetnam	1915
	Miss Annie Swetnam	1915
	Mr. Edward Chesley	1916 (died Dec. 30)
	Mrs. Alida Chesley	
	Mr. O. W. Chesley	
Aug. 1906	Mr. Carl B. Davis	
	Mrs. Edna F. Davis	
Oct. 1908	Miss Mary Sangster	1915
Dec. 1908	Mr. A. L. Duvall	
	Miss Eva Duvall	1917 (withdrew)
	Miss Helen Duvall	1917 (married)
	Mr. Frank Rice	

Jan. 1909	Mr. Isaiah M. Davis	
	Mrs. Gincie Davis	
	Mr. Calvin H. Davis	
	Mrs. Amanda Davis	
	Mr. Hollist Davis	
	Miss Alma Davis	
	Mr. Paul Duvall	1917
	Miss Agnes Stone	
	Mrs. Laura Duvall	
June 1909	Miss Ethel Heistand	1915
	Miss Essie Davis	
	Miss Winnie Davis	
July 1909	Miss Frances Rice	
	Mrs. Pearl Sangster	
Aug. 1909	Miss Geneva Keys	1917
Dec. 1909	Mrs. Ella Stone	1918 (died Mar. 10)
	Mr. Jas. B. Davis	
Feb. 1910	Miss Gladys Dawson	1915
	Miss Nellie Marshall	
	Mr. George W. Davis	1915
May 1910	Mrs. Cora A. Davis	
June 1910	Mrs. Pearl Dolph	
Sept. 1910	Mrs. Harriet Mayhugh	1915
	Mr. Remus Lewis	1915
	Mr. Thos. J. Davis	
	Mrs. Mollie Davis	
Nov. 1910	Mr. Frank C. Davis	
	Mr. Laverne I. Dolph	
	Mr. Kyle A. Davis	
Dec. 1910	Mr. Henry D. Rice	
Jan. 1911	Mr. Willie Styles	1915
	Mr. George Dawson	1915
Feb. 1911	Roy Marshall	1915
	Marshall Davis	
	Kenneth Davis	1917
Mar. 1911	Mr. David M. Beach	1915
	Mrs. Maggie Beach	1917
	Thelma Dawson	1915
	Irene Tyers	
	Ernest Pettit	
	Robert Duvall	
Apr. 1911	Elsie Beach	1917
May 1911	Miss Marjorie Rice	

June 1911	Mrs. L. L. Demory	
	Mrs. Hannah S. Force	
July 1911	Dulcie Reid	1917
Jan. 1913	Lillian Ludlow	1915
	Lois Brown	1917
	Miss Hazel Davis	
	Florence Jones	1915
	Margaret Lanstreet	1914 (moved)
Feb. 1913	Mr. Benj. F. Nevitt	1915
	Mrs. Fannie Reid	
	Mr. Will Wiley	1915
	Ernest Simpson	1917
Apr. 1913	Samuel Carter	1915
	Mrs. C. L. Starkweather	
May 1913	Miss Ethel Trice	1915
Sept. 1913	Miss Julia Ford	1915
	Miss Gertrude Harris	1915
Sept. 1913	Miss Elsie Moody	1915
	Miss Elizabeth Ryan	1917
Oct. 1913	Mr. A. B. Carter	1915 (moved)
Nov. 1913	Dr. Starkweather	
Feb. 1914	Mr. Edward Monroe	1917
	Mrs. Mollie Lanstreet	1915
Mar. 1914	Mr. Withers Hall	1917
	Mr. Kenneth Dove	
July 1914	Mrs. Annie Bivens	1916 (moved)
Aug. 1914	Miss Mary Wagner	1916 (moved)
	Miss Nellie Owen	1915
Oct. 1914	Mr. W. S. S. Groh	1917
	Mrs. W. S. S. Groh	1917
	Miss Maggie Davis	1915 (married)
May 1915	Mrs. A. H. Pugh	
	Marion Beach	1917
	Wallace Monroe	1917
July 1915	Mark Duvall	
	Mrs. Leah Dolph	1917
Aug. 1915	Mr. Carl Dennis	
	Mrs. Elsa Dennis	
	Miss Charlotte Rice	
Apr. 1916	Miss Katie Riggles	1917
	Miss Elizabeth Elgin	
	Mr. F. D. Allen	1916
	Mr. William Deardorff	1917 (withdrew)

	Miss Marion Deardorff	1917 (withdrew)
	Miss Zona Deardorff	1917 (withdrew)
Dec. 1916	Mrs. Mary A. Beach	
	Miss Rowena Beach	
	Mrs. Louise Carson	
	Violet Davis	
	Margaret Davis	
	William H. Duvall	
	Arthur Lewis	1917
Jan. 1917	Miss Ida Carson	
	Miss Edith Carson	
Feb. 1917	Mr. G. Samuel Davis	
	Mrs. Minnie Wiles	1917
Mar. 1917	Mr. W. P. Reid	
June 1917	Addie May Deavers	
Sept. 1917	Miss Irene Brown	
Oct. 1917	Rev. Mr. Mellichamp	
Nov. 1917	Miss Lee	1917
	Miss Rita Demory	
	Miss Mary Boteler	
Mar. 1918	Mrs. Kenneth Dove	
	Mr. Horace Bradley	
May 1918	Howard Demory	
	Roger Demory	
	Winter Bradley	

*Charter Members still active 1914-1918.

Appendix F

Officers of Lee Chapel Epworth League 1915-1918

August, 1915

Mr. Robert Rice	President	Miss Eva Duvall	3rd V. P.
Mr. Jas. B. Davis	1st V. P.	Miss Frances Rice	4th V. P.
Mrs. Alida Chesley	2nd V. P.	C. H. Davis	Treasurer
Miss Helen Duval	3rd V. P.	Mrs. Edna Davis	Secretary
Mr. Leverne Dolph	4th V. P. (resigned)		
Miss Frances Rice	4th V. P.		
Mr. Callie Davis	Treasurer		
Mrs. Edna Davis	Secretary		

August, 1916

Mr. Robert Rice	President	Mr. Robert Rice	President
James B. Davis	1st V. P.	Mr. Jas. Davis	1st V. P.
Mrs. Alida Chesley	2nd V. P.	Mrs. Chesley	2nd V. P.
		Mrs. Carson	3rd V. P.
		Mr. Duvall	4th V. P.
		C. H. Davis	Treasurer
		Mrs. Edna Davis	Secretary

September, 1917

Appendix G

Partial List of Persons Interred in Lee Chapel Cemetery (as of Dec. 30, 1982)

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death
Alexander, William M.	Oct. 6, 1874	May 20, 1940
B., N. V. (Init. only)	?	?
Beach, Charles E.	1852	1923
Beach, Edith May	Jan. 16, 1867	Apr. 25, 1915
Beach, Eppa C.	May 23, 1883	Nov. 3, 1949
Beach, James L.	Sept. 7, 1861	Sept. 8, 1922
Beach, James P.	Jan. 16, 1888	May 25, 1930
Beach, Mary Ann	July 5, 1861	Feb. 15, 1952
Beach, Mary M.	Jan. 26, 1862	Aug. 16, 1922
Beach, Samuel T.	1892	1906
Beach, Thomas R.	Oct. 30, 1855	Oct. 31, 1945
Beach, William Harry	1886	1887

Brown, Nina	?	?
Carson, Carrie Lee	1866	1937
Carson, Henry	Nov. 23, 1865	Oct. 16, 1924
Carson, Ida	?	?
Carson, Joseph H.	?	?
Cowling, James	June 5, 1833	Aug. 3, 1913
Cowling, Mary E.	Aug. 12, 1848	Mar. 6, 1917
D., A. A. (Init. only)	?	?
D., W. M. (Init. only)	Oct. 21, 1939	Aug. 5, 1917
D., W. T. (Init. only)	?	?
Davis, Marey E.	1833	1898
Dodson, Ferdinand	Dec. 5, 1839	Aug. 31, 1914
Dodson, Mary E.	Sep. 4, 1840	Oct. 25, 1915
Fisher, Newton	?	?
Fisher, William	?	?
Forbes, Catherine	1842	1887
H., I. C. (Init. only)	?	?
Haggard, Charles L.	Jul. 14, 1922	May 14, 1923
Haggard, Frank Ryan	Aug. 12, 1925	Jan. 13, 1932
Haines, Dulcie H.	Oct. 5, 1896	Aug. 17, 1977
Halley, Dulcie	July 9, 1872	Dec. 7, 1942
Halley, Susan B.	?	Oct. 28, 1904
Halley, Williams Francis	Apr. 22, 1874	July 25, 1954
Halley, W. F.	1814	Mar. 14, 1903
Harrison, Gilbert	1896	1912
Harrison, Levi	June 11, 1897	Dec. 30, 1916
Harrison, Martha	1850	1907
Hutchinson, Maud V.	Sept. 20, 1899	Oct. 19, 1918
Jerman, Wayne A.	June 1, 1919	Aug. 14, 1929
Jones, Ruth (infant)	?	Jan. 28, 1907
Keys, Edward S.	May 30, 1868	Oct. 3, 1902
Keys, Mollie E.	?	June 2, 1901
Koenig, Mary E.	1837	Sept. 17, 1906
Magner, Annie	1867	?
Magner, Joseph	1894	1945

Magner, Peter	1868	1943
Moore, Faris Lee	1877	1917
Neal, Alta M.	Feb. 5, 1890	Nov. 28, 1912
R., F. H. (Init. only)	?	?
Reid, Charles J.	Nov. 18, 1845	Dec. 21, 1917
Reid, Elvin Davis	1886	1967
Reid, Frances V.	Feb. 10, 1863	Dec. 11, 1943
Reid, Frank	Nov. 4, 1872	May 17, 1944
Reid, Grover C.	1885	1928
Reid, Lloyd McKinley	Nov. 2, 1900	Jan. 1, 1953
Reid, Mary F.	Sep. 13, 1844	May 6, 1914
Reid, Myrtle M.	May 30, 1889	Dec. 10, 1918
Reid, Nellie E.	Nov. 18, 1882	Jan. 27, 1977
Reid, William P.	Dec. 9, 1856	Sep. 7, 1942
Renner, Edward	?	?
Renner, Harvey	Jan. 5, 1895	Feb. 22, 1962
Renner, Lulu	1890	June 13, 1973
Rice, Harriet A.	1828	1906
Rice, Henry D.	1846	1918
Rice, James H.	1821	1903
Rice, M. Elizabeth	1859	1955
Roy, Eva	Sep. 21, 1903	Aug. 6, 1918
Roy, George	1852	1916
Roy, L. Peter	Jan. 25, 1855	Jan. 22, 1938
Sangster, Elizabeth	1833	Feb. 12, 1907
Sangster, George	1858	Mar. 15, 1910
Sangster, James	1832	Apr. 27, 1906
Simon, Goldie Ann	?	?
Simon, Walter L., Sr.	1902	1980
Simpson, Ellen Matilda	May 22, 1853	Nov. 15, 1902
Simpson, Frances W.	Dec. 17, 1895	Jul. 14, 1974
Simpson, Henry Doty	Sep. 28, 1881	June 9, 1903
Simpson, James Bruce	Dec. 30, 1892	Dec. 17, 1974
Simpson, James Henry	June 11, 1846	Apr. 29, 1919
Simpson, Richard Bruce	Sep. 8, 1930	(infant)
Simpson, William	Sep. 11, 1873	Aug. 1, 1904
Smith, Joseph Lee	?	Oct. 27, 1972
Sutherlin, R.	?	?

Teall, William Douglas	Nov. 1, 1920	May 26, 1925
Walton, Kirby	?	?
Weeks, Jessie O.	Apr. 27, 1869	Feb. 16, 1914

NOTE: A number of graves in the Lee Chapel cemetery are either unmarked or marked with only a small fieldstone.

Appendix H

Members of Lee Chapel Church (1939-1951) (As listed in record book)

Marjorie Phelps	Stewart Maley	Mrs. Carson
Mrs. Edith Brown	Ralph Lynn	Buddy Simpson
Frances Simpson	G. A. Hall	Bobby Simpson
Ann Simpson	Mrs. Dillan	N. Reid
Helen Simpson	Herbert Melvin	Marty Shanton
Marjorie Simpson	Mrs. Jerman	Mrs. Shue
Mrs. Dye	Mrs. Reid	Eva Zell
Mr. Tignor	Elsie Dye	Doris Rasmussen
R. A. Snyder	Mrs. Claude Jerman	Mrs. Riley
Dolores Snyder	Mrs. Long	Mrs. Morris
Ethel Mae Phelps	Ben Dye	Mr. and Mrs. Harvey
F. Reid	Brent Dye	Monroe
Charlotte Taylor	Mrs. Edith Rice	Ida Mae Long
Lois Melvin	Mrs. Hodges	R. M. Long
Mrs. Melvin	Mrs. Weir	

This Silent City*

by T. Michael Miller

*"The grave itself is but a covered bridge
Leading from light to light, through a brief darkness"*

Longfellow. *The Golden Legend* V.

Within the corporate limits of Alexandria, Virginia there are numerous cemetery sites. Among these is St. Mary's Catholic burial ground located at Washington & Church streets. Unfortunately, local historians have displayed little interest in preparing a compilation of tombstone inscriptions from this graveyard. Such a project has been long overdue because the area is probably the oldest Catholic burying ground in the State of Virginia.

The formative years of the Catholic Church in the Commonwealth were a chronicle of religious intolerance and severe privation of basic civil rights. Laws of the colony forbade them to hold public office or to worship freely. An early statute avers that:

Whereas it was enacted at an Assembly in January 1641, that according to a statute made in the 3rd year of the reign of our sovereign Lord King James . . . that no popish recusants should at any time hereafter exercise the place or places of secret councillors, register or comiss: surveyors or sheriff, or any other public place, but be utterly disabled for the same.

(Wm. Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large: being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia*, (N.Y.: R. & W. & G. Bartow, 1823), Vol. 1, p. 268, 269)

The plight of priests was no better and even more disconsolate. They were not allowed to conduct mass or to reside in the colony:

. . . . And it shall not be lawful under the penalties aforesaid for any popish priests that shall hereafter arrive to remain above 5 days after warning given for his departure by the

*This is the preface to the author's compilation of tombstone inscriptions in the cemetery, which is available at the Lloyd House, Alexandria Library.

Governour or commander of the place where he or they shall be, if wind or weather hinders not his departure.

(Hening, *op. cit.*, p. 268, 269)

One of the first prominent Catholics to patent land in the Northern Neck region was Margaret Brent who was granted 700 acres for transporting 14 people to Virginia. This parcel of real estate later became the location of the town of Alexandria. (David M. French, *The Brent Family*, (Alexandria, Va.: 1977), p. 44) Still later, according to local tradition, the first Catholic Church was established in Alexandria circa 1772 and was served by priests who came over from Maryland. It was located near the corner of Royal and Princess streets. (Rev. Edward L. Stephens, *One Hundred and Fifty Years for Christ*, (Alexandria, Va.: St. Mary's Church, 1945), p. 17) By 1785, there were no more than 200 Catholics in the entire State of Virginia and the congregation at Alexandria was administered by Father Thayer, a revolutionary war chaplain and graduate of Yale. At this time the parishioners also met occasionally in the home of John Fitzgerald at the southeast corner of King and Fairfax streets—now the location of Burke & Herbert Bank. Fitzgerald was a respected mayor of Alexandria, Collector of Customs, former aide-de-camp to George Washington and director of the Potomac Canal Company. At a meeting in Fitzgerald's home on March 17, 1788, in which Robert T. Hooe and George Washington were present, it was supposedly suggested that a Catholic church be erected.

Although the diary of George Washington substantiates the meeting took place in Alexandria, it provides no clues as to what was discussed.

Went up to the election of Delegates to the convention of this state for the purpose of considering the new form of Government which has been recommended to the United States: When Dr. Stuart & Col. Simms was chosen without opposition. Dined at Col. Fitzgeralds: and returned in the evening.

(Donald Jackson & Dorothy Twohig, eds., *The Diaries of George Washington*, 1748-1799, 6 vols. (Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1979), Vol. V, p. 286.

Indeed, it is surprising there is no mention in Washington's correspondence with Hooe or Col. Fitzgerald of any attempt to build a Catholic Church in Alexandria.

Mary Powell further states that:

At this dinner a number of guests were present; among them were several Catholic gentlemen from Maryland, who had

crossed the river to be present on this occasion, and it was here suggested to erect a Catholic Church at Alexandria. Colonel Hooe, who was an intimate friend of Washington & Fitzgerald, offered to donate the land for such a church and graveyard. The church, a little brick one, was built in 1793 on south Washington street and what was later known as Church street.

(Mary Powell, *The History of Old Alexandria, Virginia*, (Richmond: The Wm. Byrd Press, Inc.), p. 113, 114)

An investigation of the historical evidence does not lend credence to Powell's claim. First, she offers no primary documentation to support her story. And, a letter from Father Thayer to Bishop Carroll dated April 10, 1795 specifically contradicts her assertion that it was Hooe who donated the property for the church and that the structure was completed by 1793. Father Thayer wrote:

I wish that you would quicken Col. Fitzgerald with respect to building a chapel. It depends now wholly on him. An acre of ground being already given by Mr. Alexander for the purpose.

(Stephens, *op. cit.*, p. 18)

The Mr. Alexander referred to here was Wm. Thornton Alexander, grandson of Philip Alexander who inherited the property on which the town was founded. As Alexandria expanded beyond its original boundaries, Wm. Thornton Alexander sold off extensive acreage to interested entrepreneurs and land developers. In fact Alexander leased to Robert T. Hooe 21 acres of property which included the site of the Catholic burial ground on December 20, 1794. The land began:

. . . . at the east side of Washington street 583 ft. 2 inches from the southeast corner of Gibbon & Washington streets where they intersect, running thence in a line parallel with Gibbon street easterly 436 ft. 3 inches thence in a line parallel to Washington street southerly into Hunting Creek. Thence westerly with the meanders of Hunting Creek to the east side of Washington street directly produced, thence with Washington street and on the east side of the same to the point of beginning containing 21 acres.

Hooe paid a yearly rent of 15 pounds every June first and if the payment was not made within ninety days of the specified time, Alexander could repossess the same. (Alexandria Deed Book: F, p. 86)

How would it have been possible for Hooe to have given the property to the Catholic church in 1788 if he did not even own or lease it until six years later? The fact is that he did not lease the 21 acres until December

1794, thus Mary Powell's explanation must be spurious. When Robert Hooe died in 1809, his executors, James H. Hooe and John Muncaster, sold parts of the 21 acre tract to Alexandria merchant John Hopkins on November 1, 1809. In the deed legalizing this transaction, it mentions the original 21 acres ". . . but from which 4 acres are to be deducted being the same included in the first mentioned lease and one other acre which was granted for the erection of a Roman Catholic Church so that the quantity of land included . . . is but sixteen acres . . ." (Alexandria Deed Book S: p. 392, 93.)

To make matters more confusing, an advertisement in the *Alexandria Gazette* of May 1788 states that Dennis Foley prohibited "any person whatever . . . to take away any of the building materials of the Roman Catholic Church." (Ethelyn Cox, *Historic Alexandria, Street by Street*, (Alexandria Va.: Historic Alexandria Foundation, 1976), p. 157) This advertisement is certainly curious since Father Thayer claims in his 1795 letter to Bishop Carroll that Col. Fitzgerald had not yet built the church. Is it possible that building materials for the Roman Catholic Church could have been stored on the Church street lot for six years? It is highly improbable.

To recapitulate, the only reliable evidence suggesting who gave the land for the church and cemetery is the letter of Father Thayer to Bishop Carroll. It impeaches the Powell explanation that it was Robert T. Hooe who donated the lot. Hopefully, additional evidence will some day come to light to dispel the apparent incongruity between the fact that the building material for the church was on the site six years before the edifice was even constructed.

During the later half of the Nineteenth century, access to the cemetery was not always convenient. Thus, in May 1910, several improvements were initiated:

Through the efforts of Councilman W. H. Hellmuth and others a fine roadway has been built to St. Mary's Cemetery and a petition is now in circulation for friends and relatives of those who repose in this silent city in order to raise enough money to put the grounds in thorough order and still further beautify the cemetery.

(*Alexandria Gazette*, May 28, 1910, p. 3.)

Shortly after these improvements were undertaken, lot owners complained of acts of vandalism at the graveyard. Flowers and shrubs were pulled up by persons unknown. (*Alexandria Gazette*, August 16, 1910, p. 3.) Today, however, the cemetery is beautifully maintained as a memorial to those who have played an important role in Alexandria's social culture and history.

Appendix No. I

Chain of Title to St. Mary's Cemetery

1. Sir William Berkely to Mistress Margaret Brent of Maryland—September 6, 1654—patent re-issued November 20, 1662 for 700 acres.
2. Sir William Berkely to Mr. Robert Howsing—Oct. 21, 1669—6,000 acres of which the Brent 700 acres was a portion.
3. Robert Howsing to John Alexander—November 13, 1669—6,000 acres.
4. John Alexander to Robert and Philip Alexander—October 25, 1677.
5. Robert Alexander to his brother Philip—February 6, 1690.
6. Philip Alexander to his brother John Alexander—1693/4.
7. John Alexander, son of Philip, to his son Wm. Thornton Alexander—by will—May 1, 1775
8. Wm. Thornton Alexander to St. Mary's Catholic Church—letter of Father Thayer dated April 10, 1795 to Bishop Carroll asserts this—no deed has been found.

Appendix No. 2.

Interesting Parishioners Interred at St. Mary's Cemetery

Boa, Caven—Died August 22?, 1798—first known burial at St. Mary's cemetery. Boa, a member of the Corps of Artillery, was buried with martial honors. His epitaph reads:

All you that come to my grave
Prepare yourselves to follow me
Repent and turn to God in time for I
was like you in my prime.

Carne, Richard L.—Superintendent of Public Schools, Principal of St. John's Academy, priest, Board of trustees of Lancasterian Free School, writer & historian

Carne, Wm. F.—newspaper correspondent, worked for *Southern Churchman*, *Washington Evening Star*, Superintendent of Public Schools 1882, lawyer, compiled city code in 1874

Colasanto, James—Judge of the Municipal Court

Ficklin, Col. Theodore Hamilton—prominent teacher and educator—Principal of Washington School—taught for 53 years.

Murphy, Dr. Francis J.—prominent Alexandria physician

Spillman, Mary G.—donated \$10,000 to modernize the cemetery

New evidence—Construction Date of Saint Mary's Catholic Church:
Letter of the Rev. John Carroll to Rev. Thayer—"Last Sunday I
administered confirmation to your congregation of Alexandria.
They are laying the foundation and burning bricks for their
church." July 5, 1796. Courtesy of Edith Sprouse

Deed to lot for St. Mary's Church

Date: January 12, 1809

Deed Book: S, p. 5.

Persons Involved: Between Richard Libby, Matthew Sexsmith & Wm. Lamphier of one part & Francis Neale of Georgetown of the other part.

Conditions: For \$900, the above named gentlemen conveyed to Francis Neale the following property:

Beginning upon the alley (Chapel) 135 ft. to the westward of Fairfax street, 24 feet to the northwest of the Presbyterian Meeting House lot or burying ground and running thence westwardly and parallel to Duke street 43 feet, thence north parallel to Fairfax street 33 feet, thence eastward parallel to Duke street 43 feet to Chapel Alley thence with the line of said alley to the beginning.

Also one other piece of property: Beginning upon the west line of Chapel Alley 131 ft 1 inch to the westward of Fairfax street, 57 feet to the northward of the Presbyterian lot and upon the north line of the above described piece of ground and running thence westward with said line and parallel to Duke Street 43 feet, thence north parallel to Fairfax street 20 feet, thence eastwardly parallel to Duke street 43 ft. to said alley thence with the line of said alley south 20 feet to the beginning. This property was conveyed by Wm. Watters, Wm. Rhodes, Jacob Hoffman, Henry Stanton Earl, Benj. Baden, Joseph Smith, John Sloan, Samuel Wheeler to Matthew Sexsmith, Richard Libby and Wm. Lamphier.

Recorded
15 July 1809

Signed:
Richard Libby, Matthew Sexsmith,
Wm. Lamphier, Mary Lamphier

Additional deeds relating to the purchase of real estate for St. Mary's Church include: T 385, U 47, Z 226 (Alexandria Deed books)

Wolf Trap Farm Park: A History of Land Ownership

by Constance K. Ring

The 117-acre Wolf Trap Farm Park, composed of seven parcels acquired by the United States of America under an Act of Congress of October 15, 1966, is situated in the south central part of what was once the 5568-acre grant to John Colvill from Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax, Proprietor of the Northern Neck. The original land grant, privately owned, is on loan to Fairfax County in custody of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. A Prince William County deed states that 5568 acres granted to Colvill August 17, 1739 was conveyed to William Fairfax January 21-23, 1740, and called Towlston Grange.¹ William Fairfax willed it to his son Bryan by his second wife Deborah Clarke.² Bryan, on October 1, 1788, deeded to his son Thomas "for natural love and affection" several thousand acres "beginning at the junction of Wolf Trap Run and Bridge Branch . . . to a bunch of maples . . . running down from . . . Mackenness's old field . . . to a locust post fixed in the ground on the side of the Falls Road . . . to a burnt stump . . . to a chesnut at the fork of the mill road at the head of a glade . . ."³ Thomas Fairfax and wife Margaret, on April 6, 1833, deeded to their son Henry 1152 acres called Ash Grove⁴ and to son Albert 2458 acres which comprised lots #1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in the division of Towlston.⁵ The Ash Grove tract included the portion of Wolf Trap Farm Park on the east side of Wolf Trap Run, the Towlston tract the land on the west. A chancery suit in 1833, Bank of Alexandria vs. Albert Fairfax and others⁶ instituted to obtain a decree of foreclosure and sale of the real and personal property of Albert Fairfax, discloses that Albert mortgaged to Thomas W. Hewitt all his land except 815 acres, or lot #5, the dower of his wife Caroline for her lifetime. The deed of mortgage, dated May 21, 1833, states that Albert owed the Bank of Alexandria \$7219.59, the Bank of the United States at Washington \$2387.37, his brother Henry Fairfax \$4000, and Orlando Fairfax \$4000, with interest on each debt. The suit describes lot #5 as "beginning at the side of an old stump near a small spring on the south west side of Dick's (now Walter's) mill" and ending at "a large white oak at a ford on Wolf Trap Run up the west side of Monack Branch . . . to the line of the entire tract near a wild cherry tree." A plat, dated 1846, shows lot #5 as not included in the

litigation.⁷ Most of the land of the present Park comes from this dower lot. Albert Fairfax died intestate May 1835. His Towlston property was sold September 17, 1838 at the front door of the courthouse, the time, place, and terms of sale having been advertised for six months in the *National Intelligencer* and *Alexandria Gazette*, major newspapers of the time. The reversionary interest in lot #5 was sold to John Powell at \$1.70 per acre, or \$1387.20. The advertisement of sale describes the lot as "one-third to one-half . . . well covered with timber," and "has several tenements on it."

Ash Grove, the land of Henry Fairfax, was sold after his death in 1847, and by 1853, 160 acres east of Wolf Trap Run had become the Brewer Farm. For a more detailed account of the Fairfax family and lands, see *The Fairfax Family in Fairfax County; A Brief History*, by Kenton Kilmer and Donald Sweig, Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1975.

In June, 1841, after Caroline's death, John Powell received title to lot #5 from Commissioner of sale Isaac Robbins.⁸ In June 1842, Powell sold 366½ acres to William and Kinzey Dyer⁹ who, in July of the same year, mortgaged the land.¹⁰ Under the mortgage, Robert B. Darne bought land "supposed to contain 400 acres," and in June 1844 he too mortgaged it.¹¹ In 1849, James Hunter, trustee for Darne, sold 201.75 acres to Samuel McDaniel at \$7.00 per acre. In his will, probated January 1891, Samuel left his wife Susannah "all my personal property and desire that her dower shall embrace the dwelling house and outbuildings."¹² The residue of the land was divided among his three daughters and one son.¹⁴ In 1898 they conveyed their interest in Susannah's dower lot, or lot #1, to James Duncan, husband of Mary Lillian, one of Samuel's daughters.¹⁵ On the same day, Alice Follin, another daughter, sold 37 acres of her lot #2 to James Duncan.¹⁶ James' widow, Mary Lillian Martin, later sold the land to Mark Cockrill who sold it to William R. Tavenner.¹⁷ Tavenner and wife Jessie H. sold to Eva A. Gaines in 1924.¹⁸ Eva and husband Walter, in 1930, sold 37 acres 12 perches to Catharine Filene Dodd.¹⁹

Court Minute Books for the late 1840's and 1850's record numerous claims against the estate of Henry Fairfax. Some of the suits may have been filed against Henry as administrator of Albert's estate.

When Henry's Ash Grove tract was sold, William Brewer, in 1850, purchased 160 acres from the Commissioners of sale at \$7.05 per acre. He received his deed May 28, 1853.²⁰ Brewer's will, probated May 21, 1855, directs that all his property be held together under the control of his wife Jane.²¹ Upon Jane's death in 1868, the land was valued at about \$25 per acre, and, in April 1869, sold to John W. Pierpoint for \$4800. Pierpoint paid \$2500 in cash, the residue to be paid in two years. By 1874, Pierpoint still owed \$975. He assigned his purchase to John McDonough.²² McDonough received his deed to 160 acres July 1879²³ then mortgaged all but 40

acres which he resold to Pierpoint.²⁴ He also sold 20 acres of the mortgaged land to Clark Ford.²⁵ Ford's executor, in 1902, sold 15 acres to William Taylor,²⁶ confirmed in 1905.²⁷ Taylor and wife, in 1907, sold to W. F. Andes.²⁸ In 1904, Pierpoint's widow sold her 40 acres to Andes.²⁹ In 1922, Andes and wife sold 16 acres to Lewis Barbee³⁰ who, in 1930 sold to Catharine Filene Dodd.³¹

Alice Follin's share, or lot #2, in the division of Samuel McDaniel's land, was almost 50 acres. After 37 acres were conveyed to James and Mary Lillian Duncan in 1898, more than 12 acres remained. This land was sold by Alice and husband Richard Follin to Benjamin Haynes for \$400. At the time of Haynes' death, the land had not been fully paid off, Haynes still owing \$175. Benjamin's heirs, with Alice and Richard Follin, conveyed 12.464 acres to his widow Margaret Frances May 29, 1909. Margaret died September 24, 1925 without a will. Years later, a suit was filed by Repelus L. Wooden, daughter of Ernest Haynes against Benjamin's other heirs for a sale of all their interests in the land.³² Under a decree in chancery October 18, 1963, 12.464 acres were sold to Margaret A. Klare for \$18,000. Klare directed the title to be assigned to Morris and Ann Mary Sussman January 1964.³³ The Sussman's sold the land August 1968 to the United States of America for \$56,000.³⁴ It is now a part of Wolf Trap Farm Park.

Laura McDaniel Magarity, daughter of Samuel McDaniel and wife of Luther Magarity, sold lot #4 to Rosa A. McDaniel December 1912.³⁵ On May 20, 1966, Catharine Filene Shouse, by deed of gift conveyed to the United States of America 18.580 acres for the purpose of a center for the performing arts,³⁶ the land being a portion of 43 acres purchased from Rosa McDaniel April 29, 1935 by Jouett Shouse.³⁷ Also on May 20, 1966, Catherine Filene Shouse conveyed an additional gift to the United States of America of 40.459 acres.³⁸ This included a portion of the land she purchased for \$45,000 February 1957 from Commissioner Frank D. Swart under of decree in chancery,³⁹ the tract having been allotted to Samuel B. McDaniel in the division of his father Samuel's estate, containing 52.686 acres.⁴⁰ As part of the gift, Mrs. Shouse also conveyed a portion of the 37 acres acquired from Eva A. Gaines and of the 16 acres from Lewis Barbee. Catharine and Jouett Shouse had also conveyed, by three deeds of gift December 1961, May 1962, and January 1963, approximately 37 acres to the American Symphony Orchestra League. On May 20, 1966, the League conveyed, as a gift, 36.863 acres to the United States of America.⁴¹ Additional acreage of Mrs. Shouse and other landowners in the Wolf Trap area was condemned by the United States for the construction of Dulles Access Road.

Wolf Trap Farm Park also includes, from lot #5⁴² in the division of Ash Grove, 1.9 acres acquired by the United States of America July 1968 from Eletheer L. Besley for \$15,000⁴³ and two parcels totalling 6.613 acres

of the Wolf Trap Woods subdivision March 1968 from Clarence W. Gosnell, Inc.⁴⁴ The deeds for these parcels contain restrictions on the use of the land by both grantor and grantee, ensuring open spaces and the preservation of natural water courses bordering the Park.

Footnotes

1. Prince William County Deed Book E: 203-211
2. Kilmer and Sweig. *The Fairfax Family in Fairfax County: A Brief History*, Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1975.
3. Fairfax County Deed Book R₁:324
4. Ibid, A₃:478
5. Ibid, A₃:416
6. Chancery final file #3, Bank of Alexandria vs. Albert Fairfax and others
7. Fairfax County Deed Book K₃:285
8. Ibid, G₃:27
9. Ibid, G₃:322; K₃:131
10. Ibid, G₃:410
11. Ibid, I₃:286
12. Ibid, I₃:335
13. Fairfax County Will Book F₂:238
14. Fairfax County Deed Book L₅:545
15. Ibid, C₆:145
16. Ibid, C₆:145
17. Ibid, I₈:267
18. Ibid, F₉:545
19. Ibid, Q₁₀:238
20. Ibid, T₃:4
21. Fairfax County Will Book X₁:405
22. Chancery final file #6, Brewer vs. Beck
23. Fairfax County Deed Book X₄:376
24. Ibid, A₅:204
25. Ibid, F₅:471
26. Ibid, L₆:436
27. Fairfax County Deed Book T₆:372
28. Ibid, X₆:394
29. Ibid, P₆:353
30. Ibid, Z₈:511
31. Ibid, R₁₀:311
32. Chancery final file #15768, Wooden vs. Haynes, etc.
33. Fairfax County Deed Book 2424:512
34. Ibid, 3069:289
35. Ibid, O₇:566
36. Ibid, 2852:172
37. Ibid, U₁₁:157
38. Ibid, 2852:178
39. Chancery final file #11117, McDaniel vs. McDaniel
40. Fairfax County Deed Book 1533:24-26
41. Ibid, 2852:190
42. Ibid, S₃:314
43. Ibid, 3060:358
44. Ibid, 3022:684

The Washington, Great Falls and Dranesville Highway Company, Incorporated

by Milburn P. Sanders

Virginia roads endured some growing pains before the State became responsible for road construction and maintenance. Highway Department functions were assigned to the Gentlemen Justices of the County Court.¹ Next private companies operated turnpikes or toll roads. Perhaps the earliest Virginia turnpike appeared about 1772.² By 1840, the Virginia General Assembly had chartered about 270 turnpike companies; most of them disappeared after the Civil War.³

Several turnpike companies operated Georgetown Pike as a toll road. The last of these was the Washington, Great Falls and Dranesville Highway Company, hereinafter called "The Company."⁴ The original officers and directors of the Company⁵ were:

President	Colonel Robert N. Harper, President District National Bank
Vice President	Joseph Leiter, Washington, D.C.
Treasurer	Herman E. Gasch, Prospect Hill, Virginia
Secretary	D. S. Mackall, McLean, Virginia
Assistant Secretary	Ralph T. Powell, Great Falls, Virginia
Directors:	B.A. Bowles, Cashier Potomac Savings Bank, Washington, D.C. Mark Turner, R.F.D., Vienna, Virginia Frederick Carper, McLean, Virginia John W. Preston, R.F.D., Vienna, Virginia

Company management, with the probable exception of Mr. Bowles, owned property, lived along, or used the pike. Thus they had good reason to be interested in pike improvement. Colonel Harper lived near Leesburg; Mr. Leiter owned property at the current CIA site; Messrs. Gasch and Carper lived near the Madeira School; Messrs. Turner and Preston in Great Falls.

The purpose of incorporating the Company was to take over and improve the pike from Langley to Dranesville and to construct a branch road to Great Falls of the Potomac.⁶ The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, by resolution, on March 13, 1920, granted title to the Georgetown Pike to the Company.⁷ The branch road to Great Falls of the Potomac was built along an old road which the National Park Service calls "Carriage Road". Carriage Road extends from Georgetown Pike, about one block west of Difficult Run, to the picnic area at Great Falls Park. From the completion of this road until about 1934, it served as the main motor vehicle entrance to Great Falls Park. (The current entrance, Old Dominion Drive, was the bed of the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad during that time.) Work on the pike was divided into two sections, with the dividing line at Elkins (a Washington and Old Dominion Railroad station then located at the present entrance to Great Falls Park).

The Company officers could not have known that Georgetown Pike would become a scenic byway, but their promotional efforts proclaimed its scenic beauty, as well as the need for its improvement. "Section one of this road parallels the Potomac River. Its route is through a most interesting and romantic countryside, little known on account of the impassible condition of the highway at the present time. Wooded hills, streams, springs of clear water, give a variety to scenes unsurpassed in historical and traditional interest It is hoped that the United States Government will make a park from the Highway Bridge" (now Fourteenth Street Bridge)" to Great Falls, thus preserving these unexampled natural benefits to posterity."⁸

The economy of 1920 was reflected in Company financing. Initial subscriptions were for shares purchased at \$100.00 each, with \$10.00 down and payment of the remainder spread over six months.⁹ Apparently one person could not be expected to have the full value of the share available at one time in those days. The shares bore six per cent interest. A special issue of gold bonds, at seven and one-half per cent interest, was authorized in 1921; 1,000 of these were offered for sale. Most of the 886 gold bonds issued were sold one or two to a person. There were few eight- or ten-bond sales, one twenty- and one fifty-bond sale to a purchaser. Although the majority of purchasers were Great Falls or McLean residents, two Georgetown businesses were listed among the bond owners.¹⁰ Britt's Cafeteria and Parkway Motor Company may have wanted to increase their sales of food and Fords by improvement of the road to Georgetown. In 1920, Great Falls was a farming community, without a hint of shopping centers. A number of its farmers marketed their produce in Georgetown and dealt with Georgetown businessmen.

The Company anticipated heavy automotive travel from Washington to Great Falls, much through travel to Leesburg and ample tolls (at 25 cents per car to maintain the road and pay a substantial dividend to the stockholders.)

\$100 REWARD

will be paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction
of the person or persons found to be guilty
of the robbery and assault of

F. L. VAN PATTEN

employee of this company
about midnight, July 4, 1929

WASHINGTON, GREAT FALLS AND DRUMSTVILLE HIGHWAY COMPANY

D. S. MACKALL, *Vice-President*

McLean, Virginia



There were two toll gates about six miles apart. The eastern gate was between Saigon Road and the Beltway. (Neither of these reference points was present during the operation of the toll gates.) Mr. John Blackford took tolls in the morning; Mr. Frank Van Patten worked until midnight when the toll operation ended for the day.¹² Then the pole which blocked the road for taking tolls was raised, permitting free passage until the operation resumed the next morning. The western toll gate was at 9404 Georgetown Pike. Mr. W. A. Woods, Sr., who lived at 9402 Georgetown Pike, Mr. Frank Van Patten, and Mr. Will Oliver were the toll operators there.¹³

According to one story, certain Great Falls residents, who lived north of the pike, used River Bend Road to avoid paying toll at the western gate. Tolls were sometimes avoided at the eastern gate by waiting on the hill until midnight, for free passage to Great Falls.¹⁴

Mr. Frank Van Patten was a resident of 9704 Georgetown Pike for most of his life. On July 4, 1929, he closed the eastern toll gate at midnight; he went home, accompanied by a neighbor, Mr. Will Bettis. Mr. Van Patten carried the receipts for his shift and a pistol for protection. Mr. Bettis left the car before Mr. Van Patten entered his driveway. While

parking his car in the garage, Mr. Van Patten was attacked and relieved of his pistol and the receipts. The Company offered a \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the robber, with negative results.¹⁵

The number of automobiles registered in Virginia between 1920 and 1930 more than doubled.¹⁶ Some of these cars used Georgetown Pike, but toll receipts did not match Company estimates. In 1933 the Company was in poor health; it had abandoned Section Two of the Pike from Elkins to Dranesville. The \$100,000 bond issue goal had not been met. Only 886 bonds had been sold. The Potomac Savings Bank had failed and closed in 1933. Allegedly, the bank conservator had illegally applied \$1,629.73 on deposit at the bank to pay out certain bonds held by the bank. This created a preference for the holders of those bonds. Bonds amounting to \$88,600 had come due on January 1, 1925; no interest had been paid on them since that date. Herman E. Gasch, then president of the Company, entered suit, with 17 others, for the appointment of a receiver and dissolution of the Company. Mr. Gasch's co-complainants, holders of more than one-quarter of the Company stock, were¹⁷:

Isabella Blaубock	L. B. Morris
B. Agee Bowles	H. L. Oliver
D. D. Cornwell	Parkway Motor Company
Amelia De Billeer	A. G. Schmitz
Robert Harper	E. T. Simpson
M. D. Hanley	A. C. Speight
F. O. Hicks	Clifford Stoy
D. S. Mackall	Mark Turner
O. K. Miller	

The Company Board of Directors passed a resolution of dissolution on November 4, 1933. They declared that they were unable to pay bonded indebtedness, that no benefit could come from further operation and that the public interest demanded closing of the two toll gates. The Court appointed a receiver and the Company was dissolved.¹⁸

The Georgetown Pike had been a Company asset for about 13 years; it may have been the largest remaining asset at dissolution. The pike was sold at public auction, on May 19, 1934, to the Madeira School. The school turned the pike over to the State of Virginia.¹⁹

The toll gates were valued at \$25.00 each.²⁰ Mr. Mark Turner converted the western toll gate to a house. The two rooms on the east side of the house at 9404 Georgetown Pike were the toll gate.²¹

There were disappointments in the wake of Company dissolution. Many people had lost their investments in road bonds. The Company had not realized the expected success. Today, however, one Company anticipation has come to pass. There is much through traffic to Leesburg.

Footnotes

- ¹. Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, *A Brief History of The Roads of Virginia 1607-1840* Charlottesville, Virginia Highway and Transportation Research Council, 1977, pages 3 and 4. (Cited hereinafter as Pawlett.)
- ². Pawlett, page 15.
- ³. Pawlett, page 39 and loose map of Virginia Turnpikes.
- ⁴. Elizabeth Miles Cooke, *The History of The Old Georgetown Pike* Annandale, Virginia: Charles Baptie Studios, 1977, page 49. (Cited hereinafter as Cooke.)
- ⁵. The Washington, Great Falls and Dranesville Highway Company, Prospectus (Cited hereinafter as Company Prospectus.)
- ⁶. Company Prospectus.
- ⁷. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Minute Book 4, page 308.
- ⁸. Company Prospectus.
- ⁹. Company Prospectus.
- ¹⁰. Herman E. Gasch, et al vs The Washington, Great Falls and Dranesville Highway Company, Chancery Number 281, Fairfax County Court (Cited hereinafter as Chancery 281.).
- ¹¹. Company Prospectus.
- ¹². Interview, Mrs. Bessie Van Patten Brown, May 7, 1977.
- ¹³. Interviews: Mrs. Brown and Mr. W. A. Woods (May 22, 1977).
- ¹⁴. Interview, Mrs. Mary Sanders, May 22, 1977.
- ¹⁵. Interview, Mrs. Bessie Brown.
- ¹⁶. Nan Netherton (and others) *Fairfax County, Virginia: A History* Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1978, page 594.
- ¹⁷. Chancery 281.
- ¹⁸. Chancery 281.
- ¹⁹. Cooke, page 49.
- ²⁰. Chancery 281.
- ²¹. Interview, Mr. Woods.

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Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Minute Book 4.

Gasch, Herman E., et al, vs The Washington, Great Falls and Dranesville Highway Company, Chancery 281, Fairfax County Court.

Netherton, Nan (and others). *Fairfax County, Virginia: A History*. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1978.

Pawlett, Nathaniel Mason. *A Brief History of The Roads of Virginia 1607-1840*. Charlottesville; Virginia Highway and Transportation Research Council, 1977.

Sanders, Mrs. Mary. Interview, May 22, 1977.

The Washington, Great Falls and Dranesville Highway Company, Prospectus.

Woods, Mr. W. A., Interview, May 22, 1977.

Letter of John Marr To John S. Pendleton

Warrenton Va. 28 Oct. 1846

Sir,

John Q. Marr was born on the 25 May, 1825, at this place where he resided until 1843, when he entered the *Va. Mi. Institute at Lexington Va.* as a State Cadet. In stature he is a little above the common size, and entirely sound and healthy. In July 1846, he graduated as one of the two distinguished Cadets, and 1st in those studies which relate particularly to the army. By law of Va. a State Cadet is bound to teach two years after he graduates. The Board of Visitors of the Va. Mi. Ins. at their session in July last, (as I understood & believe) agreed that if, in time of war, a State Cadet entered the army or navy of the U.S. he should be released from his obligation to teach two years. In July last he returned to Warrenton and sought out employment as a teacher. He is now discharging his obligation to teach, in the Academy at Winchester Va. but as his country is *now at war*, he has a strong desire to join in its battles, and I entertain a strong hope, that if he can get some appointment in the army or navy; he will exert himself to the utmost to elevate his own character, and by so doing, contribute his mite towards sustaining the reputation of his country. Any thing you can find it convenient to do towards promoting his wishes in this matter, will be suitably remembered.

Very respectfully, Your Obt. St. Jno. Marr

Museum for Fairfax

by Edith M. Sprouse

The Faneuil Hall of Virginia

The Old Courthouse to Receive
Historical Relics

The County's History in a Century and a Half has been a Glorious One—Archives Contain Many Documents of Great Value Which Can Never Be Replaced—Fairfax County in the War of the Revolution and the Civil War—Court in the Old Days.

Fairfax court-house, long known as the Faneuil Hall of Virginia, is to be converted into an historical museum, and, if the present plans for its improvement and development are carried out, will eventually rank first among the institutions of the kind in the Southern States. There are now being gathered together the portraits of the men who have been distinguished in the history of Virginia, among whom are Gen. Washington, Gen. Walter Jones, Geo. Mason, Lord Fairfax, Judge Henry W. Thomas, and Fitzhugh Lee, all of whose portraits will be placed on the walls of the old building.

There are also being collected letters of a historic nature relating to the county, private documents, records and papers of incalculable interest and value pertaining to the dramatic events which have clustered around that little Virginia court-house during the hundred years and more of its existence.

In itself the court-house is an interesting relic of the past, standing there tower-crowned and pillared, scarred and weather-beaten, full of wounds received in the civil war, though it remained erect through the war. The building is of brick, with a portico in front, which is supported by large columns. In the tower there is a bell which has done duty throughout the century and has rung for funerals, weddings, fires, for anything and everything. There are indentations in the tower and many other portions of the building where the bullets struck, which gives it the disabled look of an old veteran.

The yard in which the court-house stands is one of the most spacious and beautiful court greens in Virginia. Public meetings are often held there. The last notable meeting was the Confederate reunion in Sep-

tember, when many thousand people were addressed by the governor and attorney general of the State, Senator John W. Daniel, Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and others. The last named hailed from Fairfax county when he was elected governor, and is a descendant of George Mason, of Gunston Hall, which is located on the Potomac below Mount Vernon.

Ground for Arbitration

When the first battle of Bull Run was about to be fought politicians from Washington followed the Federal army to Manassas and met prominent men then living there, when it was seriously proposed that an old-fashioned joint discussion should be held in the court-house with a view to reaching some basis of agreement on the disputes that had brought on hostilities. Even here on the border people had not begun to realize fully that the conflict was inevitable and must be fought to a finish.

Within a stone's throw of the court green occurred the first engagement on Virginia soil in the civil war. An invading force, under Col. Ellsworth, met the Warrenton Rifles, under Capt. John Quincy Marr, who was the only man killed in the encounter. It is proposed in a short time to place a granite stone on the court green with an inscription which will point out where Marr fell.

In Gen. Washington's time the court-house of the county was not located there except for the last few months of his life. The building was erected in 1800 and opened for business in the spring of the year.

Among the records carefully preserved in the county clerk's office is the last will and testament of Gen. Washington. Mrs. Washington's will was carried off during the civil war and never was returned.¹ There is not a clerk's office in the entire country which has records of more important or interesting character than those now on file at Fairfax. Of special interest are several test oaths declaring against transubstantiation, written out more than a hundred and fifty years ago and taken and subscribed to by public officials before returning to the duties of their offices.

Court in the Old Days

The court minute books preserved in the clerk's office of the County Court and running back to the middle of the eighteenth century show that court was held by "gentlemen justices", among whom were Washington and Mason, and that the "Right Honorable Thomas, Lord Fairfax, Baron of Cameron," was often the presiding justice. These books are now very interesting and show to what a large extent the vestry-officials conducted the local government in Virginia at that time. Mr. Fiske details the very important relations held by the vestry to the business of government. Frequently appearing in these books are lengthy orders

made by the court fixing the rates to be charged by tavern-keepers to their customers. The list of liquors contained in these orders indicate how very far from being a dry district Fairfax then was. The last item in every order is: "For a night's lodging with clean sheets, 6 pence, otherwise nothing."

Among the portraits which efforts are now being made to secure is one of George Johnston, who was a very prominent lawyer in that section of Virginia, having been educated for the bar in England. Then for many years he represented Fairfax County in the House of Burgesses. He was a member of that body when the celebrated resolutions carried by the eloquence of Patrick Henry were passed. Mr. Jefferson, who was present at the debate on these resolutions stated that they were drawn by Mr. Johnston, and that his "solid reasoning" much assisted the eloquence of Mr. Henry in accomplishing their passage. Mr. Johnston afterward said that he drew them up on the fly leaf of "Coke on Littleton", and handed them to Mr. Henry to move their passage. He remarked to his wife afterwards that though he felt that they might cost him his life, yet, believing he was in the right, he prepared the resolutions. The biographers of Mr. Henry always attribute their preparation to Mr. Henry.

Preparing Historical Portraits

The portrait of Gen. Washington is now being made by Mrs. E. F. Andrews; the one of Gen. Walter Jones, who lived in Fairfax while he was one of the great leaders of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, is being prepared. Portraits of the late Lieut. Governor Henry W. Thomas, who was judge of the Circuit Court of the county; Hon. John Webb Tyler, who was judge of the same court, and Mr. F. D. Richardson, who served for half a century as clerk of the court, are now ready.

The village of Fairfax, like the county and court-house, connects in a thousand ways with the ancient history of Virginia. In his history of "Old Virginia and Her Neighbors", Mr. Fiske refers to the fact that only in the Southern colonies were the county seats designated with the C. H. after their name, and cited Fairfax C. H. as an illustration. One of the most interesting historic facts relating to Fairfax is that the first meeting that threatened armed resistance to Great Britain was held in Fairfax county, and was presided over by Gen. Washington. It declared in its resolutions, "If Boston submits, we will not."

The first Southern man killed in the civil war (Capt. James W. Jackson) was a native of Fairfax county. The first battle of any magnitude of the civil war was fought on Fairfax soil, while the last fight of the war on Virginia ground also occurred in Fairfax, at Arundel, between two companies of Mosby's men and a detachment of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry. At the beginning of September, 1861, the Confederate army was

encamped here, with strong outposts at Munson's and Mason's Hills. On the last day of September Jefferson Davis visited the army headquarters here and had a conference with Gens. Johnston, Beauregard, and G. W. Smith. He also reviewed the army. The following spring Fairfax Court House became the headquarters of that branch of the Union army under McClellan.

The movement to commemorate so historic a place has attracted general interest, and commendation, not only in the locality where the court-house is situated, but in Washington and throughout the whole of Virginia.

From *The Washington Post*, Jan. 27, 1901

This glowing account, reprinted by the *Fairfax Herald*, not only gives the origin of the portraits on the walls of the court-house but also provides the first known mention of a proposed museum for the county. In the past eighty years the number of portraits has doubled but the museum has never materialized.

The first museum in Northern Virginia was established in Alexandria in 1812 by Col. Timothy Mountford, a member of the Alexandria Washington Lodge of Masons. In June, 1818 the museum was moved to the upper floor of the new market building on Royal Street where it remained until its destruction by fire in 1881.² Arlington County has had an Historical Museum in the former Hume School since 1962. Fairfax County, although it seems to have had an historical society as early as 1897, and records exist which document its successor from 1910 to 1917, has had a thriving historical society since 1950 but a museum for the county is still a project for the future.

County residents in 1901 were optimistic. On April 5th, the *Herald* announced that the portraits of certain distinguished citizens would be unveiled on the 20th of May in the court-house and that a special session of the Circuit Court would be held that day. "The occasion promises to be a most interesting one, and a very large crowd will be in attendance." The newspaper duly reported on the construction of a grandstand and gave a preliminary program. The issue of May 24th, which would have described the occasion, is missing, but fortunately the Minute Book of the court provides details of this memorable event.

At a Special Term of the Circuit Court held for the County of Fairfax at the Court House of said County on Monday the 20th day, May, 1901, present and presiding his Honor, C. E. Nicol, Judge of the 11th judicial Circuit of Virginia—

On motion of R. W. Moore speaking in behalf of the Fairfax Bar and the people of Fairfax County, it was ordered by the Court that the ordi-

nary business of the Court be laid aside for the day and that the day be devoted to the presentation and acceptance of the portraits of certain former distinguished citizens of Fairfax County.

And thereupon the following portraits were presented to the Court and accepted by it, and ordered to be hung in conspicuous places on the walls of the Court room, and there to be properly cared for and preserved.

(1) The portrait of Gen. George Washington was presented by Prof. and Mrs. Andrews of Washington, D.C., Robert E. Lee making the presentation address.

(2) The portrait of Geo. Mason of Gunston Hall, Fairfax County and author of the Virginia Bill of Rights was presented, Lewis H. Machen making the presentation address in the absence of Justice Harlan of the U.S. Supreme Court who had been selected for and accepted that duty, but was unavoidably detained by official duties in the United States Supreme Court, that Court now being in session.

(3) The portrait of Lord Thomas Fairfax was presented, Albert Fairfax of New York making the presentation address.

(4) The portrait of Lord Bryan Fairfax was presented, Albert Fairfax of New York making the presentation address.

(5) The portrait of Gen. Walter Jones was presented by Joseph Packard of the Baltimore Bar, making the presentation.

(6) The portrait of Judge John Webb Tyler, a former Judge of this Court, was presented—the presentation address being made by Gen. Eppa Hunton.

(7) The portrait of Judge Henry W. Thomas, a former Judge of this Court was presented—Judge James Keith, President of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, making the presentation.

(8) The portrait of Judge D. M. Chichester, a former Judge of the County Court of Fairfax, was presented, Lewis H. Machen making the presentation address.

(9) The portrait of F. D. Richardson, a former Clerk of the Court of Fairfax County, was presented—R. Walton Moore making the presentation address.

After the presentation of said portraits and the delivery of the respective presentation addresses, the portraits were accepted by the Court in the following language:

Speaking in behalf of both the County and Circuit Courts of Fairfax County, the Court desires to return thanks for the splendid portraits of illustrious citizens, who have adorned and honored the History of Fairfax. Whilst in purity of character and rectitude of life all of these whose memories are this day honored, stand equal and are entitled to equal reverence, and no distinction can be made, yet the names of Washington

and Mason are so interwoven with the most renowned achievements of our vast and glorious Country, that they suggest the wealth of historical material which abounds in this County, and which cannot be equaled in any other County in the entire Country.

These portraits are accepted on behalf of the County of Fairfax, and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and an appropriate order will be entered on the records of the Court to that effect; and direction made that they shall be preserved in the Court room.

Loving hands will care for them and they will ever be treasured as lasting memorials of those whose lives and deeds are thus worthy to be honored and perpetuated.

And thereupon it was ordered that the Court be adjourned until the first day of the next term.

C. E. Nicol³

In the order book of the county court it was further directed that the portraits be inspected annually and that they not be removed from the walls except by an order of the court. Some years later Miss Jennie Moore was requested to have glass placed over the portraits,⁴ and during the restoration of the court house in 1967 they were carefully stored until the renovation was completed. The portraits were subsequently rehung under the direction of Judge James Keith and Members of the Fairfax County History Commission.

Edith Moore Sprouse

Footnotes

1. The will of Martha Washington was returned to Fairfax County in 1915, but only after a complaint was filed in the Supreme Court. See Vol. II (1952-1953) of the Yearbook of the Historical Society of Fairfax County.

2. Mary G. Powell, *The History of Old Alexandria, Virginia* (Richmond, Virginia: The William Byrd Press, Inc., 1928), p. 235.

3. Fairfax County Circuit Court Minute Book #4, p. 93.

4. Fairfax County Circuit Court Minute Book #5, p. 393.

The Good Ship George Washington

This Indenture made this fourth day of February in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred & ninety seven Between John McIver of the Town of Alexandria County of Fairfax and State of Virginia of the one part and James Cavan of the same Town County and State of the other part.

Whereas the said John McIver hath built and Launched a Ship called the George Washington at Snow Hill upon the River Pocomoke . . . on the Eastern Shore of Maryland which is now rigging and fitting so as to be brought to the port of Alexandria or some other port to be fitted out for Sea is now building Another Vessel of the Burthen of Two hundred tons or thereabouts by Stephen Taylor upon Wicomico Creek in the County of Somerset also upon the Eastern Shore of the State of Maryland towards the building of which he said John McIver hath advanced unto the said Stephen Taylor the Undertaker and Builder of her about Five hundred and fifty pounds Current Money of Virginia and hath also Sundry debts due and owing unto him upon the Eastern Shore of Maryland and in the State of Delaware and also possessed of the following Slaves to wit Rhoda, and her Children Daniel Sherry and Jane.

And Whereas Gabriel Wood of the Town of Baltimore in the State of Maryland hath furnished and provided and made Advances for the furnishing and providing the Necessary Rigging for equipping and fitting the said Ship George Washington for Sea amounting to Eleven hundred pounds Current money of Virginia or thereabouts the Reimbursement of which sums so laid out and advanced by the said Gabriel Wood for Rigging for the said Ship. whatever such sums may amount to, he the said John McIver hath secured unto the said Gabriel Wood by Subjecting the said Ship to the payment thereof,

And Whereas the said James Cavan hath advanced unto him the said John McIver certain sums of Money and hath endorsed Certain Notes drawn by him the said John McIver Negotiable at the Bank of Alexandria and elsewhere and as those notes . . . shall fall due . . . will be called upon by the said John McIver to endorse other notes to take those up and also to endorse from time to time further Notes . . . to enable him to fit and equip the said Ship George Washington for Sea and to finish the other Vessell now upon the Stocks and in like manner to equip and fit her for the Sea.

Now This Indenture Witnesseth that he the said John McIver for and in Consideration of the premises and of the sum of five pounds Current Money of Virginia to him in hand paid by him the said James Cavan at or before the Sealing and Delivery of these presents the Receipt whereof he doth hereby Acknowledge . . . Doth grant Bargain and Sell unto him the said James Cavan . . . the said Ship George Washington with all her Riggins Tackell and Apparel as she now is at Snow Hill in the said River Pocomoke.

Subject to the payment of the several Sums of Money Advanced laid out and expended by the said Gabriel Wood in furnishing and providing Riggins for the George Washington whatever may be the amount of the Sums of Money so Advanced by the said Gabriel Wood for the said Riggins. And also all the Right Title and Interest of him the said John McIver of in and to the Vessell now building for him the said John McIver by Stephen Taylor in Wicomico Creek . . . Also the said negroes Rhoda, and her children Daniel Sherry and Jane and all the future Increase of the said Rhoda and Jane and all the Goods and Chattles wares and Merchandizes of him the said John McIver on any and every part of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and the State of Delaware

And that he the said John McIver also for the consideration aforesaid Hath Assigned Transferred and Set over . . . unto him the said James Cavan . . . all the Debts due and owing by all and every person or persons whatsoever on the Eastern Shore of the State of Maryland and the State of Delaware . . . whether by Judgement, Bond, Bill, Note or open Account

To have and to Hold the said Ship George Washington her rigging Tackle apparel and Furniture Subject to the payment of the sums Advanced by the said Gabriel Wood for her rigging as aforesaid, The Right and Title of him the said John McIver to the Vessell now building by Stephen Taylor for him in Wicomico Creek, the said negro Slaves Rhoda Daniel Sherry and Jane and all future Increase of the said Rhoda and Jane and all the Goods and Chattles Wares and Merchandizes belonging to him the said John McIver on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and in the State of Delaware whether by Judgement Bond Bill Note or open Account unto him the said James Cavan his Executors Administrators and Assigns to and for his and their own proper use . . .

Fairfax County Deed Book A₂:158-160

Robert E. Lee in Northern Virginia, 1865-1870

by John Hammond Moore

During the post-Civil War years as former General Lee struggled to rebuild his own life and that of little Washington College, he seldom ventured far from Lexington. Whenever he did, it was a bittersweet experience. The joy of seeing old comrades and the adulation of well-wishers were mingled with the ravages of time, memories of battles lost and friends killed. In addition, some of his travels to the banks of the Potomac and beyond were prompted by political and economic concerns and consultation with doctors concerning his declining health.¹

Lee's first trip through northern Virginia occurred in February 1866 when he was summoned to testify before a joint congressional committee on Reconstruction. This body, organized in December 1865 "to inquire into the condition of the States which formed the so-called Confederate States of America, and to report whether they or any of them are entitled to be represented in either house of Congress," produced a draft of the 14th Amendment and then ordered various individuals to comment upon it. Lee, who certainly did not want to appear, traveled to the nation's capital via the Orange & Alexandria Railroad on Friday, February 16, and took a room at the Metropolitan Hotel.

The next day he went to the Capitol where he was questioned for about two hours, his chief interrogators being two Republicans, Senator Jacob M. Howard (Michigan) and Representative Henry T. Blow (Missouri).² Their inquiries concentrated upon how Virginians felt toward (a) freedmen, (b) the government of the United States of America, (c) northerners in general, and (d) the proposed amendment in particular. Lee said little of any consequence. He portrayed himself as "living very retired" and knowing little about the public pulse. When asked about the amendment being put forward by the committee's majority, Lee said he knew nothing about it. "I scarcely ever read a paper." After Roscoe Conkling supplied him with a copy, Lee scanned it and replied that Virginians probably would accept reduced representation in Congress in preference to black suffrage. Giving Negroes the vote, he observed, "would open the

door to a great deal of demagogism and lead to embarrassments in various ways." Lee also noted that Virginia's black population seemed to be declining (many of them presumably having gone to the cotton states of the Deep South) and expressed the view that the Commonwealth's economy might benefit from this exodus if it resulted in the introduction of white labor. He had, he stressed, also favored "gradual emancipation."

The former general denied that any interest existed in the South for a war between the United States and European powers such as England and France and said he had seen little enthusiasm for white migration to Mexico.³ Concerning the attitude of Virginians toward Yankees, he made this observation: "I think it is probable they would not admit them into their social circle."

At one point this interesting exchange occurred.

Is there not a deep-seated feeling of disappointment and chagrin at the result of the war?

I think that, at the time, they were disappointed at the result of the war.

Do you mean to be understood as saying that there is not a condition of discontent against the government of the United States among the secessionists generally?

I know of none.

Lee agreed that a Virginia jury probably would not convict Jefferson Davis of treason and denied personal responsibility for prisoners of war (1861-1865) or any knowledge of cruelty to them, conceding, however, that privation was indeed possible. The general obviously chose his words with consummate care and attempted to picture the south as moderate, conciliatory, willing and eager to cooperate fully with President Johnson's Reconstruction program. The lone note of controversy was his failure "to recollect" whether he actually took an oath to the Confederate government. Twice he replied he couldn't remember, adding that "If it was required, I took it."

At "about 2½ o'clock" Lee left the Capitol and walked down Pennsylvania Avenue to his hotel. According to Washington's *Evening Star* (February 17, 1866), "... a curious crowd gather[ed] behind him as he walked, which increased to quite an assemblage by the time he reached his quarters." Throngs such as this help to explain why Lee hesitated to travel widely after the war, but even more embarrassing was what some of these individuals might say or do.

The evening before as old friends crowded into his hotel room, an especially persistent ex-Confederate soldier pushed his way forward and blurted out: "What was the reason that you failed to gain the victory at the battle of Gettysburg?" This was, of course, a question which should not have been asked. As onlookers stared in horror, their mouths agape, Lee deftly turned the query aside. It was a "long story" for which neither

of them had sufficient time. The answer would have to wait for another occasion, he added quietly but firmly.

There are rumors that Lee visited Arlington, now in federal hands, but Douglas Southall Freeman says this is untrue. He attended church on Sunday and the following day returned home, as he had come, by way of the Orange & Alexandria.

The only extensive trip Lee took during 1867 was a journey to Richmond and Petersburg. Late in November he appeared as a witness in proceedings concerned with the proposed trial of Jefferson Davis and then went to the Cockade City to attend lavish wedding ceremonies in which Miss Mary Tabb Bolling became the second wife of his widower son, Rooney.

In 1868 he again was in Richmond and also visited briefly in Lynchburg and Staunton and in 1869 made the first of two trips to Baltimore, both of which led to pleasant sojourns in Alexandria. On April 20, 1869, Lee and other Lexington area backers of the projected Valley Railroad set out for Baltimore to consult with officials of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the Baltimore city council. Their reception was cordial but the meetings unproductive. Lee spent the remainder of the month in Maryland, seeing old friends and arranging purchase of a new carriage for his wife.

On May 1 he traveled to Washington where, at President Grant's suggestion, he called at the White House. Freeman says the visit probably was "only a brief social exchange," but it seems quite possible that the two men talked politics. The *Evening Star* (May 3, 1869) reported that Grant sought the meeting in order to discuss conditions in Virginia in particular and throughout the South in general. Lee, according to the *Star*, urged separate balloting in the Commonwealth on the disenfranchising clause in the new constitution and on various local matters. The college president, the *Star* added, made a special plea for full representation of all states in the Congress as soon as possible, expressing the view that other questions then would resolve themselves.

The next day Lee crossed the Potomac to Alexandria for a joyous 72-hour reunion with old friends and old haunts, his first visit to the region since 1861, although he obviously had passed through the area en route to Washington and Baltimore.

Gen. Robert E. Lee arrived here this morning on the eleven o'clock ferry boat from Washington, and walked to King street to Washington and up Washington to the residence of his relative, Mrs. A. M. Fitzhugh, with whom he intends to spend his time while in the city. His arrival was unannounced, but the news spread rapidly, and he received the homage of many an uncovered head as he passed through

the streets. He will remain in the city until Friday.

The General will be at the Mansion House between 8 and 10 o'clock tonight, when those of the citizens who desire, can call and pay their respects to him.⁴

The following day the *Alexandria Gazette* reported that the Mansion House reception was "more like a family reunion than anything else . . . a scene long to be remembered." The general, it was noted, shook many hands and kissed many young ladies. The *Gazette* said at least 2,000 people were there (the number later swelled to 3,000), including some former Arlington slaves.

On the 6th (Ascension Day) Lee attended church services with his elder brother, Commodore Sidney Smith Lee, and on the 7th departed for Lexington. Robert E. Lee would make two more visits to Alexandria, but this was undoubtedly the happiest of these outings. The only sour notes were a *New York Herald* reporter who dogged his steps demanding an interview and that same journal's comments concerning his White House rendezvous with Grant. Lee refused all pleas to meet with the newsman in a professional capacity, although he agreed to chat with him informally. Miffed by this rebuff, the *Herald* reported that scores of those waiting to see Grant were furious when the one-time general didn't wait in line like everyone else. "Being a rebel is a good card of admission here, it appears," one irate citizen observed.⁵

Seven weeks later Sidney Lee (father of Fitzhugh Lee) died in his 67th year at Richland, his Stafford County home. His younger brother caught the train to Alexandria but arrived there on July 24, the day after the funeral was held at Christ Church. Lee spent a few days at Ravensworth, country estate of Mrs. A. M. Fitzhugh (his wife's aunt), and then traveled to White House and Richmond to visit friends and relatives before returning to Lexington on August 3.

The following spring, for reasons of health, Robert E. Lee made an extensive southern tour to the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. Like visits to Alexandria, this six-week journey was a mix of laughter and sorrow, memories of times good and bad. It is unclear whether these travels had any concrete benefits, but Lee did use a sleeping car for the first time, saw many old friends, and obviously found some opportunity for relaxation.

On June 30, 1870, he went to Baltimore alone to consult a specialist concerning his deteriorating physical condition and in mid-July crossed the Potomac to Alexandria, his last visit in northern Virginia. Because of the former general's poor health and intense summer heat, no festivities were held. On the 18th the *Alexandria Gazette* observed that Robert E. Lee was visiting friends in the city and would also stop at Ravensworth before returning to Lexington. Lee died there three months later on October 12, 1870.

Robert E. Lee's associations with northern Virginia after 1865 obviously were not extensive or frequent. One can conjecture as to why this is so, but work at Washington College—now his home—certainly occupied much of his time. Also, any journey outside of the Lexington area presented the possibility of both joyous reunion and embarrassing confrontation. Almost anything Lee said or did—a harmless call at the White House, for example—was interpreted in political terms which could rebound to his personal disadvantage and to that of his beloved Virginia. Even perhaps well-intended queries by ex-rebels, as the Metropolitan Hotel episode revealed, might cause consternation. In a real sense, Lee was a prisoner of circumstances resulting from the warm heat of defeat and Reconstruction. The less he said, the less he appeared in the public eye, the better it was for him, for his state, and—above all else—for the little college he was striving to rebuild.

Footnotes

¹The best source on this subject is, of course, Douglas Southall Freedman's *R.E. Lee: A Biography* (4 vols., New York and London, 1934-1935). See especially, volume IV, pp. 226-505.

²Howard (1805-1871), a Vermont-born Whig who went west to Michigan and became a potent force in the organization of the Republican party, was an extreme Radical in the post-war era. Blow (1817-1875), a native Virginian and more conservative in outlook, lived in Southampton County until 1830 when his family moved to Missouri. A successful dealer in paint and oil, he also dabbled in politics and diplomacy, serving as minister to both Venezuela and Brazil. For the observations of Lee and others see *House Reports*, II (1st Session, 39th Congress, 1865-1866), Document Serial no. 1273. For Lee's full testimony see pp. 129-36.

³A year earlier on March 4, 1865, while meeting with Confederate government officials in Richmond, Lee himself apparently discussed the possibility of such a war, inferring that the most propitious move at that time might be an immediate armistice which could permit the Confederacy to take advantage of future turmoil on the international scene. Of course, by that date the Union was not about to agree to an armistice.

⁴*Alexandria Gazette* (May 4, 1869).

⁵Quoted in the *Alexandria Gazette* (May 5, 1869).

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